

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

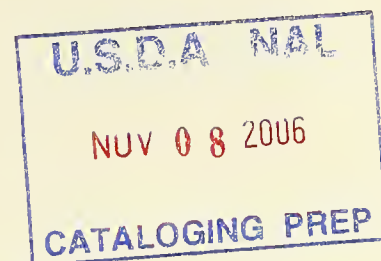
Tongass
National
Forest
R10-MB-590

September 2006



Scott Peak Project Area

Record of Decision



Abbreviations and Common Acronyms

ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
ASQ	Allowable Sale Quantity
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCF	Hundred Cubic Feet
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
Forest Plan	Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan, 1997
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
LTF	Log Transfer Facility
LUD	Land Use Designation
MBF	Thousand Board Feet
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MMBF	Million Board Feet
MMI	Mass Movement Index
NEAT	NEPA Economic Analysis Tool
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NIC	Non-interchangeable Component
OGR	Old-growth Habitat Reserve
RMA	Riparian Management Area
RMO	Road Management Objective
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RVD	Recreation Visitor Day
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
TTRA	Tongass Timber Reform Act
VCU	Value Comparison Unit
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
WAA	Wildlife Analysis Area



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region
Tongass National Forest

648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: (907) 225-3101
Fax: (907) 228-6215

File Code: 1950

Date: September 20, 2006

Dear Reader,

Enclosed is your copy of the 2006 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Scott Peak Project Area on the Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The 2006 ROD documents the reasons I selected a modified version of Alternative C from the Scott Peak FEIS prepared in 2005. This decision also includes a non-significant amendment to the 1997 Tongass Forest Plan to adjust the size, location and configuration of the small old growth reserve (OGR) within the Scott Peak project area.

My decision last November 2005 was reversed on appeal because the adequacy of the cumulative effects analysis was questioned. Since then an interdisciplinary team has made a catalogue of all past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities in the Scott Peak area, assessed what changes, if any, this made in the effects analysis that was summarized in the 2005 Scott Peak FEIS. They also clarified how and why the cumulative effects analysis was bounded in time and space the way it was, and updated the resource reports to reflect the additional analysis completed.

This additional analysis showed that there are small differences in the cumulative effects related to patch sizes remaining, deer habitat capability, road density, and harvest levels in the Portage Creek watershed. However, these are not significant new circumstances and have not resulted in any changes in the proposed action or its overall impacts. The purpose and need for the Scott Peak Timber Sale, proposed action, significant issues and alternatives remain the same as in the 2005 FEIS. The entire analysis is summarized in the record of decision that follows, with additional details in a supplemental information report that is available in the project record. An errata is enclosed that shows where the corrections have been made in the 2005 FEIS.

Copies of the Scott Peak FEIS, 2006 ROD, and errata have been sent to everyone on the project mailing list. Copies are also available for review at public libraries and Forest Service offices throughout the Tongass. If you would like a copy of the 2005 FEIS, supplemental information report or other information, please contact the Petersburg Ranger District at 907-772-3871 or email: krutledge@fs.fed.us

Sincerely,

FORREST COLE
Forest Supervisor





Scott Peak Project Area

Record of Decision

**Tongass National Forest
Petersburg Ranger District
USDA Forest Service
Alaska Region**

Lead Agency: Tongass National Forest
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Responsible Official: Forrest Cole
Forest Supervisor
Tongass National Forest

For Further
Information Contact: Patricia Grantham, District Ranger
or
Kris Rutledge, Team Leader
Tongass National Forest
PO Box 1328
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3871

Abstract: The Responsible Official has selected a modification of Alternative C from the Scott Peak Project Area EIS, which will make approximately 8.3 million board feet of timber available for harvest. The small Old-growth Habitat Reserve in the Project Area is modified by means of a non-significant Forest Plan amendment. An access management plan is approved, which will reduce the miles of open National Forest system roads in the Project Area.

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

1100-1100

Record of Decision Contents

Record of Decision	ROD-1
Introduction.....	ROD-1
Decision	ROD-1
Features of the Selected Alternative	ROD-3
Reasons for the Decision	ROD-5
Public Involvement	ROD-8
Coordination with Other Agencies	ROD-10
Alternatives Considered in Detail.....	ROD-11
Cumulative Effects.....	ROD-13
Comparison of Alternatives	ROD-19
Environmentally Preferred Alternative.....	ROD-22
Alternatives Not Considered in Detail.....	ROD-22
Planning Record.....	ROD-22
Mitigation.....	ROD-22
Monitoring	ROD-22
Findings Required By Law	ROD-23
Executive Orders.....	ROD-27
Federal and State Permits.....	ROD-29
Implementation Process	ROD-29
Procedure for Changes during Implementation	ROD-30
Right to Appeal	ROD-31
 Appendix 1 Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment.....	 A1-1
Small Old-growth Habitat Reserve Adjustment in VCU 444.....	A1-1
Timing.....	A1-2
Location and Size.....	A1-2
Goals, Objectives, and Outputs.....	A1-5
Management Prescriptions.....	A1-6
Technical Changes	A1-6
Table A1-1 Small Old-growth Habitat Reserve Options for VCU 444.....	A1-7
Cumulative Changes	A1-8
Table A1-2 Effects of Forest Plan Amendments on Acres Suitable for Timber Harvest as of October 2005	A1-9
Conclusion	A1-10
Map of Small OGR	A1-11
 Appendix 2 Selected Alternative Unit and Road Cards.....	 A2-1
Introduction.....	A2-1
Unit Card Header Information	A2-1
Silvicultural Systems	A2-2
Resource Concerns and Responses.....	A2-5

Record of Decision

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species.....	A2-6
Water Quality and Fisheries.....	A2-7
Table A2-1 Channel Types in or adjacent to harvest units.....	A2-10
Table A2-2 Stream Value Classes	A2-11
Scenery.....	A2-11
Recreation	A2-12
Heritage.....	A2-12
Geology.....	A2-12
Lands and Special Uses	A2-12
Wetlands	A2-12
Logging Economics	A2-13
Unit Cards	A2-15
Road Management Objectives	A2-47
Map of Road Management Objectives	A2-49
Glossary for RMO Form Values.....	A2-51
Road Management Objectives	A2-52
FEIS Errata and Summary.....	Errata 1

Scott Peak Project Area 2006 Record of Decision

Introduction

The Scott Peak Project Area is located on Kupreanof Island in Southeast Alaska, on the Petersburg Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest, Townships 56 and 57 South, Ranges 78 and 79 East, Copper River Meridian. The Project Area consists entirely of Value Comparison Unit (VCU) 444, an area of approximately 24,112 acres. This area is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Petersburg Creek – Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. Portage Bay (off Frederick Sound) lies to the west. The Project Area includes the Twelvemile Creek Watershed and a portion of the Portage Creek Watershed. The northern part of the Project Area includes the Missionary Range. Scott, Sheridan and Sherman Peaks are part of an unnamed range that rises to over 3,500 feet in the southern portion of the Project Area. VCU 446, which is adjacent to Frederick Sound and includes the Fivemile Creek Watershed, adjoins the Project Area to the east. The northeast portion of the Project Area is adjacent to Frederick Sound at the mouth of Twelvemile Creek.

On November 25, 2005, Forest Supervisor, Forrest Cole, signed the Record of Decision for the Scott Peak Project Area Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In March 2006, two appeals were received. On April 14, 2006, the Appeal Deciding Officer reversed the decision because the adequacy of the cumulative effects analysis was questioned. As further discussed under Reasons for the Decision, additional analysis has been completed by an interdisciplinary team which included a supplemental information report that summarizes the analysis and magnitude of this additional information. The Forest Supervisor has determined that the differences between the additional analysis completed for seven resources and the cumulative effects discussed in the FEIS are insignificant, and that no additional significant cumulative effects were identified for any resource.

Decision

This Record of Decision (ROD) documents my decision to implement Alternative C, with modifications, from the Scott Peak Project Area Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) published in December 2005. This Record of Decision documents my decision to implement forest management activities in the Scott Peak Project Area. My decision consists of:

- The location of 347 acres of timber harvest in 13 units, 1 mile of National Forest System (NFS) road reconstruction and 2.1 miles of temporary road construction, and the use of the Portage Bay log transfer facility.'
- Road management objectives that will put about 6 miles of NFS roads into storage following timber harvest and leave about 16 miles of roads open in the Project Area.

Record of Decision

- The mitigation measures specified on the road and unit cards in Appendix 2 and monitoring of best management practices and the heritage resources model, as described on pg. 2-18 of the FEIS.
- The determination that there will not be a significant possibility of a significant restriction of subsistence uses except for deer, as is explained in the Findings section that follows.

I have also approved the non-significant Forest Plan amendment changing the small Old-growth Habitat Reserve in VCU 444 to Interdisciplinary OGR Option 3 as described in Appendix 1 of this ROD.

The following modifications were made to Alternative C in creating the Modified Alternative C, hereafter referred to as the Selected Alternative.

- Unit 60 was dropped. This avoids harvest of 18 acres of coarse canopy Old-growth Habitat, and eliminates 1.4 miles of road reconstruction on Road 6323.
- Unit 298 was added. This adds some of the volume lost when Unit 60 was dropped. An additional 0.1 mile of temporary road will be required to access Unit 298.
- The silvicultural system for Units 169 and 186 was changed from even-aged management to uneven-aged management to preserve old-growth structure and function in an area that contains coarse canopy old-growth forest habitat and that serves as an old-growth travel corridor for wildlife. Fifty percent of the stand basal area¹ will be retained in these units. A wildlife biologist will be on site to assist with layout of these units to ensure that the wildlife habitat objectives are met.

This decision meets the purpose and need for the project and is consistent with the 1997 Forest Plan Record of Decision, as amended, and the 2003 Record of Decision for the Supplemental EIS for the Forest Plan (Forest Plan SEIS). This decision is based on the environmental analysis in the Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS and takes into consideration public comments on the project, including comments received on the Draft EIS, the issues raised during the appeal of the 2005 Record of Decision for the Scott Peak Project Area, and any comments received prior to the date of this decision. This Record of Decision also considers the additional analysis of potential cumulative effects from reasonably foreseeable future activities.

The resource specialists developed a Catalogue of Activities to help identify all past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities within the areas of analysis. The current projects not included in the FEIS cumulative effects analysis were two active timber sales on Kupreanof Island (Finger Point and Lindenburg). Both sales are from the 1996 South Lindenberg EIS and are not in Value Comparison Units (VCUs) adjacent to the Project Area. There is one sold timber sale on Mitkof Island (Wedge Timber Sale) from the Froot EA, which is under contract but not active. The reasonably foreseeable future projects not in the FEIS cumulative effects analysis were units from the Bohemia

¹ Stand basal area is defined as the total cross-sectional area of the trees within a stand, measured at breast height.

Mountain, Todahl Backline, and Shamrock timber sales on Kupreanof Island, and units from the Woodpecker and Overlook timber sales on Mitkof Island.

All other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities were included in the FEIS. Using this information, all cumulative effects were re-analyzed and addendums added to the appropriate resource reports. A comparison of the effects between the additional analysis and the analysis already completed for the FEIS was done. There were no significant changes between the cumulative effects for any resources and there were no changes in the direct effects analyzed in the FEIS (Table 2-R).

I have determined that there is not a significant possibility of a significant restriction on subsistence uses of wildlife, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, other foods and timber resources as a direct result of this project. I have made this determination after careful review of the subsistence analysis and public input from subsistence users and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Forest Plan addressed the long-term consequences on subsistence and concluded that there may be a significant restriction to subsistence use of deer some time in the future due to the combined potential effects of projects implementing the Forest Plan and the predicted human population growth on the abundance and distribution of deer and on competition for deer. This potential future possibility of a significant restriction exists under all alternatives considered in the Scott Peak FEIS, including the No-action Alternative.

Features of the Selected Alternative

The Selected Alternative includes the following features:

- The Selected Alternative modifies Alternative C in response to public concerns about wildlife habitat in the Project Area. The Selected Alternative harvests approximately 8.3 million board feet (mmbf) from approximately 347 acres. Only ground-based logging systems will be used. Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines will be applied in areas with high value marten habitat. Logs will be transported to the existing log transfer facility in Portage Bay.
- The Selected Alternative responds to wildlife habitat concerns raised by the public during the Draft EIS comment period, as well as concerns expressed during the interagency Old-growth Habitat review. By dropping Unit 60, the Selected Alternative avoids timber harvest in a 210-acre area of coarse canopy old-growth forest that has been identified as important wildlife habitat in the Project Area, and avoids fragmenting a portion of a key interior Old-growth Habitat patch 190.
- The Selected Alternative affects four of the eight key interior Old-growth Habitat patches within the Project Area, reducing the total acres in key patches in the analysis area by approximately two percent (from 13,493 acres to 13,208 acres).
- The Selected Alternative maintains 12 of the 16 Old-growth Habitat travel corridors for wildlife identified in the Project Area. Given the amount of natural and human-induced fragmentation existing within the Project Area, corridors linking interior Old-growth Habitat patches can be important in ensuring the viability of old-growth associated species within the Project Area. Species most likely to benefit from these corridors include small bodied mammals such as the

Record of Decision

red squirrel and species with limited dispersal capabilities, such as lichens and mosses.

- A silvicultural system that will leave approximately 50 percent of the stand basal area remaining after harvest is prescribed for Units 169 and 186 in the Selected Alternative. Studies in Southeast Alaska have shown that stands harvested with this type of uneven-aged management silvicultural system can recover their pre-harvest old-growth values in terms of species composition and structure within 60 years (Deal and Tappeiner 2002). The wildlife habitat objective of using this type of harvest in Units 169 and 186 is to ensure that both units will continue to function as Old-growth Habitat for travel by wildlife between low elevation and high elevation Old-growth Habitat.
- The Selected Alternative harvests only ten percent of the existing low elevation, high volume strata old-growth forest in the Project Area. This type of forest is valuable habitat for many species including Sitka black-tailed deer, marten, and goshawk.
- Analysis, based on conditions over multiple years, indicates the Selected Alternative will appraise positive, with an indicated bid value of \$68.79 per hundred cubic feet (ccf)¹. Logging costs are estimated to be \$120.25 per ccf. About 39 direct job-year equivalent and approximately \$1.7 million in direct logging and sawmill income will be produced. Actual bid values may vary at the time of sale offering due to more accurate timber cruise information and fluctuating market conditions.
- The Selected Alternative requires reconstructing one mile of existing National Forest System (NFS) Road 6323 and constructing 2.1 miles of temporary road. No new classified roads designed for long-term use will be constructed. One bridge will be temporarily replaced on Road 6323 in order to access Unit 156. Approximately 1/2 mile of temporary road will cross forested wetland. After timber harvest is complete, all temporary roads will be decommissioned, one mile of existing closed Road 6323 will be returned to storage condition, and 2.1 miles of existing open Road 6324 will be placed in storage.
- The Selected Alternative will require the temporary reinstallation of one bridge over a Class I stream, and installation of two culverts or bridges on Class II streams, four culverts on Class III streams, and six culverts on Class IV streams (Refer to Appendix 2, pg. A2-11 for stream class definitions). Culverts will be removed after timber harvest is complete. No-harvest buffers have been designed for all Class I, II, and III streams. Based on low levels of cumulative harvest in the Portage Creek (10.2%) and Twelvemile (12.4%) Watersheds, low road densities and hydrologic recovery of previously harvested units by revegetation, changes in water yield are expected to be of little or no consequence for both watersheds.

¹ The NEPA Economic Analysis Tool uses cubic feet as a unit of measure to estimate volume. On the Tongass National Forest, the board foot to cubic foot ratio varies between about four to six board feet per cubic foot.

- The Selected Alternative includes Unit 298. The addition of this harvest unit not only recovers some of the volume eliminated with Unit 60, but also has limited potential effects to wildlife. It does not harvest any coarse canopy forest and only harvests three acres from a 326-acre patch of interior old-growth forest habitat.
- No harvest will occur in roadless areas; however, some harvest units are located within 600 feet of a roadless area boundary and their 600-foot zone of influence will extend into the adjacent roadless area. Approximately 83 acres of the Five Mile Roadless Area will be within this zone of influence in the Selected Alternative. Approximately 12 acres of the Missionary Roadless Area will be within the zone of influence. These acres are all located along the edges of the roadless areas. The North Kupreanof Roadless Area and other unroaded areas will not be affected by the Selected Alternative.

Reasons for the Decision

In making this decision, I worked to assure consideration of all issues and to take into account the competing interests and values of the public. These issues were raised in comments on the Scott Peak Project Area Draft EIS and in the appeal of the 2005 Record of Decision. There were many divergent public, personal and professional opinions expressed during the analysis process. The decision will probably not completely satisfy any one particular group or individual. However, I considered all views and I believe the decision I have made is a balanced approach to implementing the Tongass Forest Plan.

1. The Selected Alternative provides a beneficial mix of resources for the public within the framework of the existing laws, regulations, policies, public needs and desires, and capabilities of the land, while meeting the stated purpose and need for this project. This decision is suited to this Project Area at this time. This project provides the opportunity to provide wood fiber to society, supports part of the local economy that is based on timber resources, and protects the other resources within the Project Area. Providing an even flow of timber products is one of several multiple-use goals of the Forest Plan (see Chapter 2 of the Forest Plan). Without obtaining decisions on environmental analyses in a timely manner, an even flow of timber products cannot be maintained (see Appendix A of the Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS).
2. This project has been accomplished with thorough public involvement. I acknowledge that some comments opposed this project (and some opposed any timber harvest on all National Forest System land), and some recommended that the No-action Alternative or Alternative D be chosen. The Selected Alternative incorporates some of the aspects people liked about Alternative D. The Selected Alternative responds to concerns about protecting important wildlife habitat. By dropping Unit 60, I am choosing not to harvest 18 acres of coarse canopy Old-growth Habitat, thereby avoiding fragmentation of the upper portion of a key interior Old-growth Habitat patch. Increasing retention to 50 percent in Units 169 and 186 responds to wildlife habitat concerns by leaving old-growth stand characteristics in an area currently functioning as a wildlife travel corridor between low elevation and high elevation Old-growth Habitat.

Record of Decision

3. I have carefully considered the timing of this decision in view of ongoing changes in agency regulations and ongoing litigation. Some of the factors I considered in making this decision include:
 - The 1997 Forest Plan allows for the activities approved by this decision to take place. These activities are further supported by the analysis and decision for the Forest Plan SEIS.
 - The Tongass Forest Plan is being revised to respond to the court decision in *Natural Resources Defense Council v. U.S. Forest Service*, 421 F.3d 797 (9th Cir. 2005). In that decision, the Ninth Circuit held that the environmental impact statement and record of decision for the Tongass Forest Plan adopted in 1997 had errors relating to the use of projected market demand for timber, the range of alternatives considered, and the cumulative effects of activities on non-National Forest System lands.
 - The Tongass National Forest will continue to be managed in compliance with Section 101 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 (TTRA), which modified the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This states that the Secretary of Agriculture "...shall, to the extent consistent with providing for the multiple use and sustained yield of all renewable forest resources, seek to provide a supply of timber from the Tongass National Forest which (1) meets the annual market demand for timber from such forest and (2) meets the market demand from such forest for each planning cycle." In order to provide a steady flow of timber harvest volume, timber sale projects need to be completed through the NEPA process each year to meet current and future market demand.
 - This project has received support from the local community. On June 3, 2002, the Petersburg City Council passed a resolution to support the Southeast Timber Task Force proposal which addresses the issue of sustaining a viable forest products industry in Southeast Alaska. A second resolution, passed on August 9, 2002, supported the No-action Alternative (Alternative 1) of the Forest Plan SEIS (2003), which would allow the management activities currently authorized by the Forest Plan to continue.
4. My decision conforms to the Forest Plan and the principles of sound National Forest management. I have considered the need to help provide a sustained level of timber supply to meet annual and Forest Plan planning cycle market demand, and to provide diverse opportunities for natural resource employment, consistent with multiple use and sustained yield of all renewable forest resources. The timber volume from this Project Area will help meet the needs for society and for a steady supply for the timber industry in Southeast Alaska.
5. Comments were received both for and against new temporary road construction and road access for non-timber harvest uses. Concerns were also expressed for the effects of road construction on other resources and the lack of road maintenance funds. These comments were carefully considered. Road construction facilitates the harvest and transport of timber, and is safer and more economically feasible and less dependent on optimum weather conditions than the

use of helicopters. No new NFS roads will be constructed. Approximately 2.1 miles of temporary road construction and one mile of NFS road reconstruction will occur; however, after completion of timber harvest, the reconstructed roads will be placed back in storage and all temporary roads will be decommissioned.

6. Although the Scott Peak Project Area includes portions of two roadless areas, the activities associated with this decision will not directly affect any roadless area. Some harvest units will extend the zone of influence 600 feet into the roadless areas; however, this will not substantially alter the wilderness characteristics of either area or their eligibility for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
7. The 2005 Scott Peak decision was reversed because the adequacy of the cumulative effects analysis was questioned. Specifically, some of the present and reasonably foreseeable timber sales were not considered. Analysis that considered the addition of these harvested acres did not result in any significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns, or have any bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. Completion of a catalogue of activities verified that all past projects, and other present projects, had been included in the cumulative effects analysis.

The additional analysis completed on the Scott Peak Project Area did not identify any cumulatively significant impacts to any resources. While there are some minor differences in the total potential acres that would be disturbed, the conclusion remains the same as presented in the Scott Peak FEIS - the Scott Peak timber sale would not cause any cumulatively significant impacts because timber harvest is proposed only along the existing road system. Also, Forest Plan standards and guidelines would be implemented to reduce adverse impacts. A supplemental information report was completed to summarize this additional analysis and addendums were prepared for the resource reports, as needed. These are available in the project record.

8. All of the timber harvest units that are included in this decision employ a method of harvest in high value marten habitat that will leave a percentage of the forest stand remaining after timber harvest. Uneven-aged harvest prescriptions with 50 percent retention of the basal area within the stands are prescribed for Units 169 and 186 in response to wildlife habitat concerns. The prescriptions chosen are based on consideration of many factors which are described in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS and on a unit-by-unit basis in Appendix 2 of this ROD.
9. I have carefully considered the needs of subsistence users in this decision, particularly those people residing in Petersburg, Kupreanof, and Kake who use the Scott Peak area for subsistence resources and recreation. An ANILCA 810 Subsistence Hearing was held in Petersburg on August 11, 2005. Testimony from this hearing was considered in this decision and is recorded in Appendix D of the Final EIS. Throughout the planning process, the interdisciplinary team for this project has worked hard to balance a range of timber sale opportunities, while still protecting subsistence resources. I believe the Selected Alternative responds to both needs.

Record of Decision

10. Significant adverse effects to soils, water, or fisheries are not anticipated due to the locations of the roads and units, and the implementation of Forest Plan standards and guidelines and best management practices (BMPs).
11. Windthrow has been, and will continue to be, a natural disturbance in the Project Area. Windthrow risk was determined using the best possible information available. Measures to reduce windthrow are listed on the activity cards in Appendix B of the Final EIS, and, for the Selected Alternative, in Appendix 2 of this ROD. This leads me to conclude that the unit locations, designs, and harvest prescriptions used will reduce the possibility of catastrophic windthrow following timber harvest.
12. The effects on marten habitat capability will be reduced by leaving large trees and stand structure within all areas of high value marten habitat within harvest units. These measures will meet or exceed the Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines.
13. All harvest units will achieve a significantly higher level of scenic quality than the Forest Plan objectives of Maximum Modification. The effects to scenery from the Visual Priority Travel Routes and Use Areas designated in Appendix F of the Forest Plan have been reduced by unit selection, harvest prescriptions, and unit design. Units 224, 246, 274, 288, 290, and 298 would be potentially visible from Frederick Sound. All of these units will be in the background distance zone, approximately ten miles from the Alaska Marine Highway ferry route. Timber harvest viewed from the Alaska Marine Highway ferry route will not attract attention, or will have visual characteristics similar to those of the surrounding natural landscape.
14. This decision includes the use of the existing log transfer facility (LTF) at Portage Bay as permitted. This facility is currently permitted for use by log barges as well as in-water rafts. The purchaser of the timber sale is required to submit a request to the State of Alaska for all applicable permits associated with either form of log transportation. All log transfer facility use will be monitored to ensure that bark accumulation remains within thresholds specified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the State of Alaska.

Public Involvement

Public involvement has been instrumental in the identification and clarification of issues for this project. This has been helpful in the formulation of alternatives and has assisted me in making a more informed decision for the Scott Peak project. Public meetings, Federal Register notices, newspaper and radio news releases, open houses, the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions, and group and individual meetings were used to solicit input for this project.

Kupreanof Island Analysis: The possibility of a timber harvest project in this area was identified in the Kupreanof Island Analysis in 2000.

Schedule of Proposed Actions: The Scott Peak project was first placed on the Fall 2001 Schedule of Proposed Actions. The Forest Service received one letter and one e-mail concerning the Scott Peak Project Area in response to the Summer 2002 Schedule of Proposed Actions.

Scoping Letters: In November 2001 and November 2002, scoping letters were sent to everyone that requested to be on the project mailing list. The 33 comment letters that the Forest Service received in response to these two project newsletters covered a wide range of topics, including: wildlife and Old-growth Habitat, fisheries, recreation, tourism, socioeconomics, roads, the marine environment, timber harvest economics, hunting, roadless areas, water quality, subsistence resources, soils, and wetlands.

Notice of Intent: A Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on November 29, 2002.

Open Houses: Multiple open houses and public meetings were held in Petersburg and Kake during the environmental analysis process in 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2005.

Federally-recognized Tribal Governments: The Petersburg Indian Association, the Organized Village of Kake, and the Wrangell Cooperative Association, which are the tribal governments within or near the Petersburg Ranger District, were consulted to share and receive information and identify any potential impacts or concerns during the project analysis and development of alternatives. None of the tribal governments expressed any concerns about this project.

Public Comment received for the Draft EIS: Availability of the Scott Peak Draft EIS was announced in the Federal Register on July 1, 2005, with a due date for public comments listed as August 15, 2005. This document was available at public libraries and Forest Service offices throughout Southeast Alaska and copies were mailed to everyone who requested them. The Forest Service responses to the input received during the comment period are included in the Final EIS (Appendix C). The comments received covered several topics and ranged from general issues to detailed concerns about the analysis presented in the Draft EIS. The majority of detailed comments concerned a wide range of wildlife issues. Several comments expressed a preference for Alternative D with OGR Option 2 or for the No-Action Alternative. There was also support for profitable large timber sales. Comments also provided support for the work that was done to prepare the Draft EIS and the range of alternatives that was included in the analysis.

Subsistence Hearing: In accordance with Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, a subsistence hearing for the Scott Peak Project Area was held in Petersburg, Alaska, on August 11, 2005, at the Petersburg City Council Chambers. The date, time, and location of the subsistence hearing were publicized in the local media. Public comments on the Draft EIS were also accepted at that time. One person testified at the hearing. The hearing transcript is included in Appendix D of the Final EIS. An additional Subsistence hearing is not necessary because there was no significant change between the findings in the FEIS and the subsequent analysis.

Analysis and Incorporation of Public Comments into the Final EIS: Public comments and subsistence comments were analyzed and incorporated into the Final EIS.

Record of Decision

For an analysis of public comment and the Forest Service response to public comment, see Appendix C of the Final EIS.

The Final EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and a Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register.

Final EIS and 2005 Record of Decision: The Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS Notice of Availability was published in the Federal register on January 20, 2006, after the Record of Decision was signed. A public notice, which started the 45-day appeal period, was placed in the *Juneau Empire*, the newspaper of record, on January 16, 2006. The project received two appeals of the Record of Decision in March 2006. On April 14, 2006, the Appeal Deciding Officer (ADO) reversed the decision of the Forest Supervisor. (Appeal no. 06-10-00-0005).

Supplemental Information Report: A supplemental information report was prepared to determine whether it was necessary to correct, revise, or supplement the existing FEIS. This review was limited in nature to the following points raised in Appeal No. 06-10-00-0005 of the 2005 Scott Peak Record of Decision.

1. The Scott Peak FEIS and project planning record did not adequately analyze the potential cumulative effects from reasonably foreseeable future activities associated with unsold units from the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale EIS and Todahl Backline EA, including associated road reconstruction.
2. Other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions that may have potential cumulative effects in conjunction with the Scott Peak project.

I have determined that the changes in the total potential acres affected surrounding the Scott Peak project are not significant new circumstances that require preparation of a supplement or revised EIS because the interior habitat and key interior old-growth patches will continue to function primarily as they currently do. The cumulative effects will not change the effects determinations in the FEIS or change the ranking of the FEIS alternatives. While the overall total acres of these key interior old growth patches will be reduced by 584 acres (about 4%), the interior patches will continue to support the current richness and diversity of species that they currently do. Connectivity to other areas of interior habitat will be retained. These areas include one small Old-growth Habitat Reserve within the Project Area, which contains 1,221 acres of interior habitat (including all of key patch 176 and a portion of key patch 190) and the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness which includes the majority (2,990 acres) of key patch 429 as well as several other large interior patches (greater than 1000 acre). The additional reduction in size of key patch 70 will be caused by harvest of the Todahl Backline units and not the units proposed for harvest in this Scott Peak decision.

Coordination with Other Agencies

From the time scoping was initiated, meetings and site visits with all interested federal and State of Alaska agencies have occurred. Issues were discussed and information was exchanged. Personnel from the Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination (ADGC), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Alaska Department of Environmental

Conservation (ADEC), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) visited the Project Area during the environmental analysis.

Coordination meetings were held with the State of Alaska, including ADFG and ADEC. The Alaska Coastal Management Plan (ACMP) consistency review process was initiated upon publication of the Draft EIS through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting.

A Biological Evaluation was prepared and sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Section 7 consultation process under the Endangered Species Act. The National Marine Fisheries Service concurred with the Forest Service determination that the project will not affect NMFS-managed threatened or endangered species. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that no terrestrial threatened or endangered wildlife species are present in the Project Area. Additional consultation will not be required because the additional analysis completed demonstrates that there are no changes from the original determination in the FEIS.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended) requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before filling or dredging in wetlands and tidelands. A permit has been obtained for the Portage Bay Log Transfer Facility.

The Final EIS (Chapters 1 and 4) identifies the agencies that were informed of and/or involved in the planning process.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

The No-Action Alternative (Alternative A), Proposed Action (Alternative B) and four other action alternatives were considered in detail in the EIS. Each alternative is consistent with the Forest Plan. For a comparison of the alternatives, refer to Table R-1 and Table R-2, or Chapter 2 of the Final EIS.

Options for the small Old-growth Habitat Reserve (OGR) for VCU 444 were also part of the decision for this project. These options are not connected to a specific timber harvest alternative. One or more OGR options are compatible with each timber harvest alternative. The Final EIS describes the four OGR options considered in Chapter 2 and in the Biodiversity section of Chapter 3. Appendix 1 of this ROD contains the non-significant Forest Plan amendment changing the small Old-growth Habitat Reserve in VCU 444 to Interdisciplinary OGR Option 3.

The following alternatives were considered in detail in the Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS.

Alternative A - This alternative proposes no timber harvest, road construction, changes to the road management objectives, or other activities within the Scott Peak Project Area at this time. It does not preclude future timber harvest or other activities in this area. The analysis of this alternative represents the existing condition of the Scott Peak Project Area. Compared to the other alternatives, Alternative A best responds to the issue of Old-growth Habitat fragmentation by not building roads or harvesting timber at this time.

Record of Decision

It does not respond to the issue of timber harvest economics. Alternative A is compatible with the selected OGR Option 3.

This alternative was not selected since environmental analysis showed that the desirable outputs of the purpose and need could be achieved with reasonable effects to the ecological and human environments. These effects are described in Chapter 3 of the Scott Peak Final EIS.

Alternative B – Alternative B, identified in the EIS as the Proposed Action for the Scott Peak Project Area, includes timber harvest and the development of a road management plan. The proposed timber harvest would result in the production of approximately 16.6 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from approximately 634 acres. A mix of ground-based and helicopter logging systems would be used. The amount of trees remaining in a unit after harvest would vary from approximately five to twenty percent of the original stand structure (basal area). Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines would be applied in areas with high value marten habitat. Where helicopter logging is used, trees less than 16 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) would be left standing to improve harvest economics. Logs would be transported by truck to the existing Portage Bay log transfer facility.

Alternative B was not selected because it would not respond as well as the Selected Alternative to the issue of Old-growth Habitat fragmentation, and it would not be as economical to log. Alternative B is also not compatible with the selected OGR Option 3.

Alternative C – This alternative addresses the issue of timber harvest economics by avoiding helicopter logging. Alternative C is compatible with the selected OGR Option 3.

The proposed timber harvest would result in the production of approximately 9.3 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from approximately 354 acres. Only ground-based logging systems would be used. Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines would be applied in areas with high value marten habitat. Logs would be transported to the existing log transfer facility in Portage Bay.

Alternative C responds well to both significant issues. Alternative C was not selected because of concerns over the effects to wildlife from harvesting in specific areas of coarse canopy Old-growth Habitat that are recognized as important wildlife habitat in the Project Area, especially for deer. Although this alternative responds well to the issue of Old-growth Habitat fragmentation, I determined that effects on key interior Old-growth Habitat patches and wildlife travel corridors could be reduced with the modifications resulting in the Selected Alternative.

Alternative D – This alternative was developed by modifying Alternative C to reduce effects on wildlife habitat. Some of these modifications included avoiding timber harvest along the east side of Road 6323 where important old-growth wildlife habitat exists (Units 60 and 156), and leaving more trees remaining after harvest in units where a higher level of deer, bear, moose, and squirrel activity was documented on sample plots (Units 169, 186, 290, and 298).

Alternative D responds well to both significant issues. Among the action alternatives, Alternative D has the third highest expected bid value. However, it would offer less volume than Alternatives B, C, or the Selected Alternative. Alternative D was not selected because it is not compatible with the selected small OGR Option 3, and it was determined that the additional volume from the Selected Alternative could be harvested without substantially increasing effects to other resources.

Alternative E – This alternative proposes only helicopter logging to harvest timber to reduce effects on wildlife. The emphasis on helicopter logging in Alternative E contributed to the highest total logging costs of all alternatives. Alternative E is compatible with the selected OGR Option 3.

The proposed timber harvest would result in the production of approximately 3.4 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from approximately 134 acres. Helicopters would be used to transport logs to the existing road system. Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines would be applied in areas with high value marten habitat. All trees less than 16 inches DBH would be retained in all units to avoid the higher costs of logging small diameter logs. Logs would be transported by truck to the existing Portage Bay log transfer facility.

The primary reason that Alternative E was not chosen was because it has a negative expected bid value, and is therefore not responsive to the timber harvest economics issue. It relies exclusively on helicopter logging which makes it more expensive to harvest and limits sale designs and operators.

Alternative F – This alternative was designed to compare a lower volume alternative that uses ground-based systems to Alternative E, which uses helicopter logging. It reduces impacts to wildlife by proposing a relatively small amount of harvest compared to Alternatives B, C, and D, and by leaving more trees remaining after harvest in Unit 169, where a higher level of wildlife activity was documented on sample plots. Alternative F is compatible with the selected OGR Option 3.

Alternative F responds well to the issue of Old-growth Habitat fragmentation by proposing a limited amount of timber harvest and temporary road construction at this time. The timber volume offered would be economical to log, but Alternative F would offer the second lowest volume among the action alternatives. Alternative F was not selected because the Selected Alternative provides a greater amount of volume, and associated jobs and logging income, without significantly greater effects to other resource values in the Project Area.

Cumulative Effects

Most past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities were considered in the original analysis completed for the FEIS. Several projects were identified that were not considered and are listed below. Based on this information, the potential cumulative effects were re-analyzed if these projects were within the analysis areas defined by each resource specialist. Seven resources included analysis areas where the activities authorized in these projects may contribute cumulative effects. These effects analyses are summarized below.

Record of Decision

Activities not included in the analysis for the FEIS

The reasonably foreseeable future projects not included in the FEIS cumulative effects analysis were the remaining unharvested units from the Bohemia Mountain, Todahl Backline, and Shamrock timber sales on Kupreanof Island, and the units from the Woodpecker and Overlook timber sales on Mitkof Island.

The current projects not included in the FEIS cumulative effects analysis were two active timber sales on Kupreanof Island (Finger Point and Lindenburg). There is one timber sale on Mitkof Island, (Wedge Timber Sale) from the Froot EA, which is under contract but is currently not active. These projects were included for the cumulative effects analysis areas that used the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province.

Interior Old-growth Habitat Fragmentation

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

The FEIS looked at interior habitat in two ways, 1) total interior habitat, all Old-growth Habitat patches that are buffered from outside influences by a 300 foot edge; and 2) key interior patches which were a selection of “high value” interior patches chosen using the following five key characteristics.

1. Size and shape
2. Proximity to the closest neighboring patch,
3. Elevation
4. Amount of high volume strata, and
5. Average winter snow levels.

Historically within the analysis area, there were 38 patches totaling 23,710 acres, including one large patch of 22,976 acres of interior forest. The area of these 38 patches is the area of analysis for cumulative and direct effects on interior Old-growth Habitat since any new activities would further fragment the historic patch. This area includes much of the planning area and portions of VCU 442, 443 and 445 (Figure 3-1 FEIS pg. 3-23).

Cumulative Effects

While much of Todahl Backline Timber Sale has been harvested, there are 123 acres in VCU 443 that are within the area of analysis and, if harvested, would further reduce the total acres of interior Old-growth Habitat acres from the historic 23,710 acres to 13,641 acres (a cumulative reduction of 42.5% from the historic condition, and a 4% reduction from the current condition). This is a reduction of 1.5% from the previous analysis for the Selected Alternative. The cumulative effects are not expected to change the findings in the FEIS (pg. 3-41) or change the ranking of the FEIS alternatives. Currently there are sufficient acres of interior habitat to support viable populations of old-growth dependent species within the analysis area. The harvest of the Todahl Backline Timber Sale units, when applied to the current condition and the planned harvest of the Selected Alternative, will not reduce the total interior habitat below levels capable of supporting viable wildlife populations.

Past harvest has fragmented the large interior patch (22,976 acres) into numerous smaller patches, eight of which have been identified as key interior patches using the criteria listed above. Key Patch 70 (currently 3,740 acres) is the only patch that would be affected by the reasonably foreseeable future actions and is not affected by the proposed units in the Scott Peak project. Harvest of the Todahl Backline units would result in a reduction of 353 acres¹ of interior Old-growth Habitat within key patch 70 (from 3,740 acres to 3,387 acres). Key patch 70 is the only key interior patch that would be affected from the harvest of the Todahl Backline units. This patch would still function as a large patch (over 1000 acres) and species composition and richness would be expected to remain similar to the current condition.

These cumulative effects do not change the summary in the FEIS (pg. 3-41) or change the ranking of the FEIS alternatives because the interior patches will continue to support the current richness and diversity of species that they currently do. Connectivity to other areas of interior habitat will be retained. These areas include one small Old-growth Reserve within the Project Area, which contains 1,221 acres of interior habitat (including all of key patch 176 and a portion of key patch 190) and the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness which includes the majority (2,990 acres) of key patch 429 as well as several other large interior patches (greater than 1000 acre). The additional reduction in size of key patch 70 will be caused by harvest of the Todahl Backline units and not the units proposed for harvest in this Scott Peak decision.

Deer Habitat Capability to Meet Subsistence Demands

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

The analysis area for cumulative and direct effects was Wildlife Analysis Area (WAA) 5136 of which the Scott Peak Project Area makes up approximately 40% (Figure 1). At the WAA scale, habitat requirements of deer are met, comparisons with Forest Plan predictions for end of rotation conditions within the WAA can be made, and the Memorandum of Understanding (ACMP MOU 2000) with the State of Alaska for deer data on a WAA level is met.

Cumulative Effects

The State of Alaska (ADF&G) has set deer population objectives for WAA 5136 at 1,067 animals and has estimated hunter demand for deer in WAA 5136 at 180 deer. Cumulative harvest from the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities would reduce the number of deer available to subsistence users from 1,118 to 1,106 for the Selected Alternative. This is a 12% reduction from the historic numbers and a difference of only 0.10 deer available to subsistence hunters from the analysis in the FEIS. This change would not be significant enough to change the findings in the FEIS or change the ranking of the alternatives. WAA 5136 has sufficient habitat capability to support a deer population that meets ADF&G's population objectives and hunter demand. There will not be a significant possibility of a significant restriction to the customary and traditional subsistence uses of deer.

¹ The total acres of interior habitat lost is greater than the total acres harvested because interior habitat is reduced by the total acres harvested plus a 300 foot buffer (see Scott Peak FEIS pg. 3-20 for more information).

Record of Decision

Deer Habitat Capability to Provide for Wolves and Road Density

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

Since wolves have home ranges that cross several WAAs the scale applied to the deer habitat model to determine deer prey availability for them was the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province ((Forest Plan, pg. 4-116 and TPIT pg. 16). This province includes Kupreanof, Mitkof, Woewodski, Level Island and several other small islands, Figure 3-1 in Forest Plan FEIS, Part 1 (pg. 3-17) shows the Biogeographic Provinces of Southeast Alaska.

Cumulative Effects

Deer Habitat Capability to Provide for Wolves

With the addition of present and reasonably foreseeable future effects from harvest and road building the deer habitat capability to provide for wolves would be reduced from the historic number of 25 deer/mi² to 22 deer/mi², which is above the 18 deer/mi² in the Monitoring Report for the Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 2000). When compared to the FEIS analysis for the Selected Alternative this is an additional decrease of 1.3% estimated habitat capability. This change would alter the ranking of the alternatives in the Scott Peak FEIS.

Effects of Road Density on Wolves

The current road density has changed from the 0.59 miles/mi² reported in the FEIS (pg. 3-64) to 0.443 miles/mi². This change is due primarily to an updated GIS layer that has become available since the FEIS was published. The effect of the road density, however, does not change from what is reported in the FEIS. This analysis includes all roads below 1,200 feet including all National Forest System and non-system roads and all roads on non-Forest Service lands that are included in the GIS data, and most likely overestimates the true road density.

The cumulative road density for the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic includes past, present, and proposed roads from the Scott Peak project, and all reasonably foreseeable future projects. The road density would be 0.455 miles/mi² an increase of 0.012 miles/mi² of road density from the current condition. The road density is well below the 0.7 miles/mi² threshold recommended by Person et al. (1996) and no adverse effects due to trapping are expected. ADFG has not identified this as an area where wolf mortality from trapping is a concern. This conclusion has not altered the rankings of the alternatives.

Watershed Analysis

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

The analysis area for the Watershed Resources Report for the Scott Peak Project Area includes the Portage Creek and Twelvemile Creek Watersheds. Each watershed is a topographically delineated catchment in which all surface water drains to a single stream. The downstream boundary for both the Portage Creek Watershed and the Twelvemile Creek Watershed is sea level. The watershed boundaries are large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect either Portage Creek or Twelvemile Creek. At the same time the watershed boundaries are small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.

Cumulative Effects

There is no additional present or reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest or road building that would occur in the Twelvemile Creek Watershed besides that proposed in the Scott Peak Timber Sale. Within the Portage Creek Watershed there is one harvest unit from the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale EIS, Unit 537B, that may be logged in the future. Unit 537B is 31 acres and would require that 1,891 feet of temporary road be built. These activities would increase cumulative harvest levels in the Portage Creek Watershed to 10.9% of the total watershed area an increase of 0.2% from the Selected Alternative. This increase in harvest level would not change the ranking of the alternatives in the Scott Peak FEIS.

Recreation

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

The area used to analyze recreation cumulative effects was the Scott Peak Project Area plus VCU 442 to the west to include Portage Bay and the road connecting the Project Area to the Portage Bay Log Transfer Facility (LTF). Portage Bay was included in the analysis area because of high recreation use and because it is the access point for roaded recreation in the Project Area. This is the same area that was analyzed in the FEIS. Recreation in the bay would be affected to some degree by timber harvest activities at the LTF site.

Cumulative Effects

The Recreation Analysis shows that the harvest of the Bohemia Mountain and Todahl Backline timber units would not significantly change the existing recreation opportunities because forest system roads for these projects have already been constructed under the decision documents for those sales, with the exception of 1,891 feet of a temporary road needed for Unit 537B of the Bohemian Mountain Timber Sale which will be decommissioned after harvest is complete. In addition, the recreation experience is not expected to change following any of the logging because the units are located in the Roaded Modified setting and the amount of acreage affected is relatively small. Recreationists in Portage Bay may notice increased activity at the Log Transfer Facility if the sales are concurrent. This would be a short-term effect lasting only as long as the actual logging in the area.

Record of Decision

Fisheries

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

The cumulative effects analysis for fisheries includes the Portage Creek and Twelvemile Creek Watersheds. Each watershed is a topographically delineated catchment in which all surface water drains to a single stream. The downstream boundary for both watersheds is sea level. The watershed boundaries are large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect either Portage Creek or Twelvemile Creek. At the same time the watershed boundaries are small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.

Cumulative Effects

There is no reasonably foreseeable timber harvest or road building that would occur in the Twelvemile Creek Watershed besides that proposed in the Scott Peak Timber Sale. Within the Portage Creek Watershed there is one harvest unit originally proposed under the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale that may be harvested in the future. The unit (537B) is 31 acres and would require that 1,891 feet of temporary road be built. No fish passage problems are expected to occur for the following reasons:

- No new stream crossings are necessary to access this unit and the timber harvest would avoid the riparian management areas.
- The retention of trees will maintain stream shading, wood loading, and stream temperature at or near natural levels.
- Sediment delivery to streams from planned and existing roads is expected to stay within water quality standards.

These findings are the same as the findings presented in the Scott Peak FEIS.

Transportation

Cumulative Effects Analysis Area

The cumulative effects analysis area for transportation encompasses VCUs 424, 442, 443, and 444. These VCUs were selected as the analysis area because they encompass all of the Portage Bay road system on Kupreanof Island.

Cumulative Effects

Because harvest of the remaining Todahl Backline EA and Bohemia Mountain EIS units would use the existing road system, the cumulative effects for the Portage Bay transportation system are not expected to change from those in the FEIS. Due to the fact that no additional NFS roads are planned in the reasonably foreseeable future, the ranking of the alternatives in the FEIS is not expected to change.

Comparison of Alternatives

The following two tables display the proposed activities by alternative and the direct effects on the significant issues and other resources by alternative. For a complete discussion, refer to Chapter 3 of the Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS (December 2005).

Table R-1

Scott Peak Project Area Proposed Activities by Alternative

Proposed Activity	Alternative¹					
Acres of Timber harvest by harvest treatment	B	C	D	E	F	Selected Alt
Even-aged Management						
Clearcut	340	176	46	110	28	111
Two-aged Management						
Clearcut with Reserves	294	178	211	24	123	171
Uneven-aged Management						
Single Tree Selection, 50% retention of basal area	0	0	0	0	0	65
Acres of Timber harvest by logging system	B	C	D	E	F	Selected Alt
Cable	253	227	117	0	48	285
Shovel	172	127	140	0	103	62
Helicopter	209	0	0	134	0	0
Road construction	B	C	D	E	F	Selected Alt
Miles of reconstruction of existing NFS roads	3.4	2.4	0	0.6	0	1.0
Miles of construction of temporary roads (closed after harvest)	3.0	2.0	1.9	0	0.9	2.1

¹Alternative A is the No-action Alternative.

Record of Decision

Table R-2 Comparison of Alternatives by Effects

Units of Measure	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Selected Alt
Issue 1 – Timber Harvest Economics							
Acres proposed for harvest	0	634	354	257	134	151	347
Amount of volume (mmbf) ¹	0	16.6	9.3	6.1	3.4	3.6	8.3
Amount of volume (ccf) ²	0	33,163	18,468	11,786	7,127	6,921	14,615
Expected Bid Value (\$/ccf)	0	\$47.55	\$70.82	\$64.86	-\$28.08	\$63.59	\$68.79
Total Logging Costs per ccf (including road costs)	0	\$133.92	\$111.01	\$116.01	\$193.82	\$111.00	\$120.25
Road costs per ccf (construction and reconstruction)	0	\$10.66	\$13.09	\$15.36	\$1.56	\$10.26	\$18.61
Estimated direct income (million \$)	0	\$3.90	\$2.17	\$1.39	\$0.84	\$0.81	\$1.72
Estimated direct jobs	0	88	49	31	19	18	39
Issue 2 – Old-growth Habitat Fragmentation							
Acres of productive old-growth maintained in Project Area after harvest	11,801	11,167	11,447	11,544	11,654	11,650	11,454
Total Interior Old-growth Habitat acres remaining in the analysis area after harvest	14,258	13,704	13,980	14,067	14,075	14,135	13,994
Number of key interior Old-growth Habitat patches reduced in size, in the analysis area (out of 8 total)	0	5	4	3	3	2	4
Key interior Old-growth Habitat patch acres in analysis area remaining after harvest	13,439	12,998	13,195	13,284	13,334	13,331	13,208
Other Environmental Considerations							
Effects on Wildlife Habitat after harvest by this project							
Acres deer habitat capability after harvest in the Project Area	474	443	455	460	472	465	456
Acres of high value deer habitat remaining after harvest in the Project Area	1,423	1,247	1,334	1,356	1,423	1,377	1,342
Acres marten habitat capability after harvest in the Project Area	42.1	40.5	41.2	41.4	41.9	41.7	41.1
Acres of high value marten habitat remaining after harvest in the Project Area	3,473	3,094	3,242	3,308	3,440	3,380	3,250
Coarse canopy acres remaining after harvest in the Project Area	581	472	541	559	581	568	559

¹ Estimated sum of unit volumes proposed for harvest, derived from field estimates and stand exams

² Stex volumes from the NEAT analysis (Stex volumes are net volumes based on stand exam plots and the silvicultural prescriptions).

Record of Decision

Table R-2, continued

Units of Measure	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E	Alt F	Selected Alt
Effects on TES Species	None	Activities may affect individuals but would not result in a trend toward listing of any species populations					
Effects on Water Quality							
Number of new Class I stream crossings	0	1*	1*	0	1*	0	1*
Number of new Class II stream crossings	0	2+1*	2	2	0	0	2
Number of new Class III stream crossings	0	4	4	3	0	3	4
Number of new Class IV stream crossings	0	6	6	6	0	1	6
Cumulative timber harvest acres - % of Portage Creek Watershed ¹	9.6	11.4	10.8	10.7	10.0	10.2	10.9
Cumulative timber harvest acres - % of Twelvemile Creek Watershed	10.7	15.3	12.7	11.5	11.4	11.2	12.4
Effects on Wetlands							
Miles of new temporary road on wetlands	0	0.6	0.5	0.5	0	0.4	0.5
Acres of forested wetland in harvest units	0	51	40	40	1	29	40
Effects on Roadless Areas							
Proposed timber harvest or road building in roadless areas	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres
Roadless area acres within 600 ft. of proposed harvest units	0	345	82	71	214	20	95
Effects on Subsistence Deer in WAA 5136							
Deer available to Subsistence users after cumulative effects analysis	1,117	1,098	1,105	1,108	1,116	1,112	1,106
Effects on Recreation	None						
Effects on Scenery							
Forest Plan VQO achieved for the seen area**	R	PR/M	PR/M	PR/M	R/PR	PR/M	PR/M
Effects on Heritage Resources	None						
Effects on Land Status	None						

* Proposed bridge reinstallations; other crossings may be bridges or culverts.

**Adopted VQO for the seen area for the Timber Production LUD is Maximum Modification. VQOs achieved: R = Retention, PR = Partial Retention, M = Modification

¹ Cumulative acres harvested in watershed have changed from the FEIS.

Record of Decision

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

Based on a comparison of the alternatives and the discussion contained within Chapter 3 of the Final EIS, Alternative A, the No-Action Alternative, would cause the least environmental disturbance and is therefore the environmentally preferred alternative. Alternative E is the environmentally preferred alternative of all action alternatives.

Alternatives Not Considered in Detail

In addition to the alternatives described above, several other alternatives were considered during the analysis but eliminated from detailed study. These alternatives were discussed during the development of the alternatives. Some of them were suggested by comments received through public scoping. Some of the aspects of the ideas were modified and used in conjunction with the alternatives considered in detail. Other alternatives would not meet Forest Plan direction for this project. A summary of these, and the reasons they were not analyzed in detail, can be found in Chapter 2 of the Final EIS. Further information is available in the project planning record.

Planning Record

The planning record for this project includes the Draft EIS, Final EIS, 2005 Record of Decision, the appeal and appeal decision letter, The Supplemental Information Report, material incorporated by reference, and all materials produced during the environmental analysis of this project. The planning record is available for review at the Petersburg Ranger District.

Mitigation

Mitigation measures are prescribed to avoid, reduce, minimize or eliminate the adverse effects of proposed actions. These measures were applied in the development of the project alternatives, including the Selected Alternative, and in the design of the harvest units and road corridors. The “Mitigation Measures” section of Chapter 2 and Appendix B of the Final EIS and Appendix 2 of this ROD discuss mitigation measures for all alternatives.

Mitigation measures applicable to the Selected Alternative include measures contained in the standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan, and applicable Forest Service manuals and handbooks. Appendix 2 of this ROD describes site-specific mitigation measures for the Selected Alternative. These measures are adopted as part of this decision and will be implemented.

Monitoring

A monitoring program is the process by which the Forest Service can evaluate whether the resource management objectives of the final environmental documents have been implemented as specified and whether the steps identified for mitigating the environmental effects were effective.

Project-level monitoring is specified in Chapter 2 of the Final EIS and will include monitoring for all best management practices and monitoring associated with the heritage resources site sensitivity model (FEIS, pg. 2-18) and bark accumulation monitoring at the Portage Bay LTF. These monitoring items are part of this decision and will be implemented. The Petersburg District Ranger is responsible for ensuring that project implementation, mitigation, monitoring, and enforcement are accomplished as specified in the Final EIS.

Findings Required By Law

National Forest Management Act

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires specific determinations in this ROD: consistency with existing Forest Plans and Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2410.3, R10 Supplement 2400-2002-1 (5/7/2002), a determination of clearcutting as the optimal method of harvesting, if used, and specific authorizations to create openings over 100 acres in size. No even-aged management harvest units in the Selected Alternative will result in openings greater than 100 acres. Specific information and rationale used to develop unit prescriptions is shown on the unit cards in Appendix 2 of this ROD, in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS, and in the planning record.

Clearcutting as the Optimal Method of Harvesting

The Forest Plan (pgs. 4-96 to 4-97) and Forest Plan Final EIS (Appendix G, pgs. G-7 to G-9) give guidance on when to use even-aged management. Clearcutting (an even-aged method) is used in this project to preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from logging system damage and windthrow. Specific information and rationale for use of this prescription is shown in the introduction to the unit cards and in the silvicultural prescriptions on the individual unit cards (Appendix 2 of this ROD), and in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS. Where used, this prescription has been deemed optimal related to site-specific considerations as described above.

Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan

This decision fully complies with the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. I have reviewed the management direction, standards and guidelines, and the schedule of activities for the Project Area included in the Selected Alternative, and find the Selected Alternative to be consistent with these elements. The activities authorized in this decision are consistent with the standards and guidelines and management prescriptions of the Forest Plan.

Forest Service Transportation Final Administrative Policy (Roads Rule)

The Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS and this ROD have been prepared to be consistent with the Forest Service Transportation Final Administrative Policy, and the *Tongass National Forest Forest-Level Road Analysis* (January 2003). Based on the *Scott Peak Area Road Analysis* (May 2003), I have determined that the roads and road management associated with the Selected Alternative constitute the minimum road system needed for

Record of Decision

safe and efficient travel and for the administration, utilization, and protection of National Forest System lands.

Tongass Timber Reform Act

Forest Plan Riparian Standards and Guidelines have been applied to the Scott Peak project, and no commercial timber harvest will occur within 100 feet of any Class I stream or any Class II stream flowing directly into a Class I stream, as required in Section 103 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA). The design and implementation direction for the Selected Alternative incorporates best management practices and Forest Plan standards and guidelines for the protection of all stream classes.

Endangered Species Act

Actions authorized in the Selected Alternative are not anticipated to have a direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any threatened, endangered, or sensitive species in or near the Scott Peak Project Area. The National Marine Fisheries Service has concurred that the actions described for the proposed project are not likely to adversely affect any threatened, endangered, or sensitive marine species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred that no terrestrial threatened, endangered, or sensitive species are known to occur in the Scott Peak Project Area.

A complete Biological Evaluation for marine and terrestrial threatened, endangered and sensitive species is included in the planning record for this project.

Bald Eagle Protection Act

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate compliance with the Bald Eagle Protection Act restricts management activities within 330 feet of an eagle nest site. The Selected Alternative is not anticipated to have a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any bald eagle habitat.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires a determination on the effects of the Scott Peak project on Essential Fish Habitat. The potential effects of the project on Essential Fish Habitat are discussed in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS. This discussion includes a description of the Essential Fish Habitat in the Project Area, a description of the proposed activities, and a description of the proposed mitigation measures that will be implemented to protect these essential habitats.

The descriptions and the analysis lead me to a determination that the Scott Peak project may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat, but this risk will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of Forest Plan standards and guidelines and best management practices. In accordance with the August 25, 2000, agreement between the Forest Service and NOAA Fisheries for consultation on Essential Fish Habitat, the Scott Peak Draft EIS was provided to NOAA Fisheries to initiate formal consultation. NOAA Fisheries concurred with the Forest Service Essential Fish Habitat determination in the Draft EIS and provided conservation recommendations. The Forest Service responded to the

conservation recommendations in a letter dated August 26, 2005, and have incorporated these into this decision.

National Historic Preservation Act

Heritage resource surveys of various intensities have been conducted in the Project Area following inventory protocols approved by the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer. The State Historic Preservation Officer has been consulted, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800. I have determined that there will be no effects on known heritage resources. Native communities have been contacted and public comment encouraged. The Forest Service has satisfied the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Forest Service timber sale contracts contain enforceable measures for protecting any undiscovered heritage resource that might be encountered during sale operations. See discussion under Heritage Resources in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS.

Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988

No evidence of karst or caves has been documented in the Scott Peak Project Area and no caves were discovered during the project analysis. The actions in the Selected Alternative will not have a direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any significant cave in the Scott Peak Project Area. No units in the Selected Alternative are in areas that contain karst resources.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Section 810, Subsistence Evaluation and Findings

An Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 810 subsistence evaluation was conducted for the alternatives considered in detail. A summary of this evaluation is included in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS. A subsistence hearing was held in Petersburg on August 11, 2005, to collect public input on subsistence users in the Project Area. A transcript of the testimony is included in Appendix D of the Final EIS.

The review of the subsistence hearing testimony, comments from the public, and the analysis conducted for the Final EIS indicate that there will not be a significant possibility of a significant restriction to the customary and traditional subsistence uses of wildlife, fish and shellfish, marine mammals, other foods, or timber resources as a result of this project. However, the Forest Plan addressed the long-term consequences on subsistence and concluded that there may be a significant restriction to subsistence use of deer some time in the future due to the combined potential effects of projects implementing the Forest Plan and the predicted human population growth on the abundance and distribution of deer and on competition for deer. The Forest Plan analysis was based on an assumed 18 percent increase in community population growth for each of the first two decades and a 15 percent increase for each of the next three decades (Forest Plan Final EIS Part 2, pg. 3-528). Human populations in Southeast Alaska actually declined an average of three percent between 1995 and 2003, with the Petersburg and Kupreanof area showing a nine percent decline during those years. Given the recent population declines, it is likely that this restriction, if it occurs, would occur somewhat later than predicted.

Record of Decision

The possibility of this restriction is necessary, consistent with sound management principles for the utilization of public lands and will involve the minimal amount of public lands necessary to accomplish the purposes of this use. Reasonable steps have been taken to minimize the adverse impacts upon subsistence uses and resources.

Clean Water Act (1977, as amended)

Congress intended the Clean Water Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-500), as amended in 1977 (Public Law 95-217) and 1987 (Public Law 100-4), to protect and improve the quality of water resources and maintain their beneficial uses. Section 313 of the Clean Water Act and Executive Order 12088 of January 23, 1987 address Federal agency compliance and consistency with water pollution control mandates. Agencies must be consistent with requirements that apply to “any governmental entity” or private person. Compliance is to be in line with “all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements, administrative authority, and process and sanctions respecting the control and abatement of water pollution.”

The Clean Water Act (Sections 208 and 319) recognized the need for control strategies for nonpoint source pollution. The National Nonpoint Source Policy (December 12, 1984), the Forest Service Nonpoint Strategy (January 29, 1985), and the USDA Nonpoint Source Water Quality Policy (December 5, 1986) provide a protection and improvement emphasis for soil and water resources and water-related beneficial uses. Soil and water conservation practices (BMPs) were recognized as the primary control mechanisms for nonpoint source pollution on National Forest System lands. EPA supports this perspective in their guidance, Nonpoint Source Controls and Water Quality Standards (August 19, 1987).

The Forest Service must apply BMPs that are consistent with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations to achieve Alaska Water Quality Standards. The site-specific application of BMPs, with a monitoring and feedback mechanism, is the approved strategy for controlling nonpoint source pollution as defined by Alaska’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Strategy (October 2000). In 1997, the State approved the BMPs in the Forest Service’s Soil and Water Conservation Handbook (FSH Handbook 2509.22, October 1996) as consistent with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations. This Handbook is incorporated into the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

A discharge of dredge or fill material from normal silviculture activities, such as harvesting for the production of forest products, is exempt from Section 404 permitting requirements in waters of the United States, including wetlands (404(f)(1)(A)). Forest roads qualify for this exemption only if they are constructed and maintained in accordance with best management practices to ensure that flow and circulation patterns and chemical and biological characteristics of the waters are not impaired (404(f)(1)(E)). The BMPs that must be followed are specified in 33 CFR 323.4(a). These specific BMPs have been incorporated into the Forest Service’s Soil and Water Conservation Handbook under BMP 12.5. All temporary roads that will be constructed for this project qualify for this exemption.

The design of harvest units for the Selected Alternative was guided by standards, guidelines, and direction contained in the Forest Plan, and applicable Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks. The unit cards and road cards (Appendix 2 of the ROD) contain specific details on practices prescribed to prevent or reduce nonpoint sediment sources. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and BMPs will occur. Project activities are expected to meet all applicable State of Alaska Water Quality Standards Regulations.

Clean Air Act

Emissions anticipated from the implementation of any project alternative will be of short duration and are not expected to exceed State of Alaska ambient air quality standards (18 Alaska Administrative Code [AAC] 50).

Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), while specifically excluding federal lands from the coastal zone, requires that a federal agency's activities that affect the coastal zone be carried out in a manner that is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's coastal management program. The Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP), as amended in 2005, is the applicable program in this state.

With certain exceptions that do not apply to the Scott Peak Project, the enforceable policies for timber harvest activities are found in the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AFRPA). Under AFRPA, Federal timber harvest activities that provide at least as much resource protection as the AFRPA standards provide on State land meet the requirement to be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the ACMP. The Federal policies that apply to the Scott Peak Project, including Federal laws, regulations, Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks, and Tongass Forest Plan standards and guidelines, collectively provide a level of resource protection that meets or exceeds the standards in AFRPA.

For these reasons, the Forest Service has determined that all the alternatives for the Scott Peak Project Area, including the Selected Alternative, are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the ACMP. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting, reviewed this determination and concurred with the finding. The Forest Service has determined that no new, phased, or supplemental consistency determination or consultation is required for the Scott Peak Project. The State's final ACMP review letter, dated October 31, 2005, in which the State concurred with the Forest Service's consistency determination for the project, is filed in the project planning record.

Executive Orders

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplains)

Executive Order 11988 directs federal agencies to take action to avoid, to the extent practicable, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and

Record of Decision

modification of floodplains. Effects on floodplains from project activities have been avoided or minimized as much as possible.

Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands)

Executive Order 11990 requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands. This project avoids impacting wetlands whenever practicable, but it is not feasible to avoid all wetland areas. Approximately 0.5 mile of temporary road will be constructed on wetlands. Wetland soils not meeting Forest Plan criteria for timber harvest suitability are excluded from the harvest base. Soil moisture regimes and vegetation on some wetlands may be altered in some harvest units; however, the affected wetlands will meet wetland classification and will still function as wetlands in the ecosystem.

Road construction across wetlands is permitted within Alaska. Such construction requires the filling-in of wetlands and creates permanent loss of wetland habitat. Effects to wetlands are minimized through the application of specific BMPs. Road construction through wetlands is avoided where possible. See Chapter 3, Wetlands, of the Final EIS for more extensive discussion of the wetlands.

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to identify and address the issue of environmental justice, i.e., human health and environmental effects of agency programs that disproportionately impact minority and low-income populations. The Executive Order specifically directs agencies to consider patterns of subsistence hunting and fishing when an agency action may affect fish or wildlife. Implementation of the Selected Alternative will not cause disproportionate adverse health, social or environmental effects to minority or low-income populations in or adjacent to the Scott Peak Project Area.

Executive Order 12962 (Recreational Fisheries)

Executive Order 12962 requires federal agencies to evaluate the effects of proposed activities on aquatic systems and recreational fisheries. With the application of Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, including those for riparian areas, no significant adverse effects to freshwater or marine resources will occur. Aquatic systems would remain essentially the same because aquatic habitats are protected through implementation of BMPs and riparian buffers.

Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)

Executive Order 13007, directs federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of American Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. There are no known sacred Indian sites in the Scott Peak Project Area. Consultation with local federally recognized tribes including the Petersburg Indian Association, the Organized Village of Kake, and the Wrangell Cooperative Association occurred during the analysis of this project.

Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Birds)

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (amended in 1936 and 1972) prohibits the taking of migratory birds, unless authorized by the Secretary of Interior. The law provides the primary mechanism to regulate waterfowl hunting seasons and bag limits, but its scope is not limited to waterfowl. Over 100 species of birds migrate from other states and countries to Alaska to breed, nest, and fledge their young. Most of these birds fly to interior or northern Alaska, and only pass through the Project Area on the way to their breeding grounds. The migratory species that may stay in the area utilize most, if not all, of the habitats described in the analysis for breeding, nesting, and raising their young. The effects on these habitats were analyzed for this project. The Selected Alternative is not anticipated to have a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any migratory bird species for this Project Area. There may be minor direct effects on individuals or small groups and their nests from the harvest of timber or from the disturbance caused by other harvest activities.

Federal and State Permits

Federal and state permits necessary to implement the authorized activities are listed in Chapter 1 of the Final EIS.

Implementation Process

Implementation of any part of this decision may occur no sooner than 50 days following publication of the legal notice of the decision in the *Juneau Empire*, published in Juneau, Alaska.

This project will be implemented in accordance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) and Handbook (FSH) direction for Timber Sale Project Implementation in FSM 2431.3 and FSH 2409.18. This direction provides a bridge between project planning and implementation and will ensure execution of the actions, environmental standards, mitigation approved by this decision, and compliance with TTRA and other laws. All applicable best management practices (BMPs) will be applied to the Selected Alternative.

Implementation of all activities authorized by this Record of Decision will be monitored to ensure that they are carried out as planned and described in the Final EIS.

Appendix 2 of this ROD contains the Selected Alternative's unit design cards and road cards. These cards are an integral part of this decision because they document the specific resource concerns, management objectives, and mitigation measures to govern the layout of the harvest units. These cards will be used during the implementation process to assure that all aspects of the project are implemented within applicable standards and guidelines and that resource impacts will not be greater than those described in the Final EIS. Similar cards will be used to document any changes to the planned layout, as the actual layout and harvest of the units occurs with project implementation.

The implementation record for this project will display: (1) each harvest unit as actually implemented, (2) any proposed changes to the design, location, standards and guidelines,

Record of Decision

or other mitigation measures for the project, and (3) authorization of the proposed changes.

Procedure for Changes during Implementation

Proposed changes to the authorized project actions will be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA), the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and other laws concerning such changes.

In determining whether and what kind of NEPA action is required, the Forest Supervisor will consider the criteria set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1502.9(c)), and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Sec. 18 for determining whether to supplement an existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In particular, the Forest Supervisor will determine whether the proposed change is a substantial change to the unit or road as planned and approved, and whether the change is relevant to environmental concerns. Connected or interrelated proposed changes regarding particular areas of specific activities will be considered together in making this determination. The cumulative impacts of these changes will also be considered. A change analysis process has been approved by the Forest Supervisor.

The intent of field verification during analysis is to confirm inventory data and to determine the feasibility and general design and location of a unit or road, not to locate final boundaries or road locations. Minor changes are expected during implementation to better meet on-site resource management and protection objectives. Minor adjustments to unit boundaries are likely during final layout for the purpose of improving logging system efficiency. This will usually entail adjusting the boundary to coincide with logical logging setting boundaries. Many of these minor changes will not present sufficient potential impacts to require any specific documentation or other action to comply with applicable laws. Some changes may still require appropriate analysis and documentation to comply with FSH 1909.15, Sec. 18.

Right to Appeal

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Individuals or organizations who submitted comments during the comment period specified at 215.6 may appeal this decision. The notice of appeal must be in writing, meet the appeal content requirements at 215.14 and be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer:

Denny Bschor, Regional Forester
Alaska Region
US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
709 W. 9th Street
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Email address: appeals-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us
Fax (907) 586-7840

The Notice of Appeal, including attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, express delivery or messenger service) with the Appeal Deciding Officer at the correct location within 45 calendar days of the date that the legal notification of this decision is published in the *Juneau Empire*, the official newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Hand-delivered appeals will be accepted at the Regional Office during normal business hours (8:00 am through 4:30 pm) Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Implementation of decisions subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215, may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period, if no appeals are received.

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Kris Rutledge, Scott Peak Project Area Team Leader, Tongass National Forest, Petersburg Ranger District, P.O. Box 1328, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, or call (907) 772-3871.



FORREST COLE
Forest Supervisor

9.20.06

DATE

Legend

-
- A map of the southeastern coast of Alaska, showing the locations of Juneau, Petersburg, and Ketchikan. Juneau is at the top, Petersburg is in the middle, and Ketchikan is at the bottom. The map shows the coastline and major waterways.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA VICINITY MAP
PROJECT AREA SHOWN IN RED

0 2,640 5,280 10,560 Feet

Record of Decision Appendix 1

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment



Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Small Old-growth Habitat Reserve Adjustment in VCU 444

The Forest Plan established 18 small Old-growth Habitat Reserves (OGRs), five medium OGRs, and two large OGRs on Kupreanof Island. During the Kupreanof Island Analysis (USDA Forest Service 2000a), a group of interagency biologists recommended adjustments to the size, location, or configuration of seven of the small OGRs during project level planning. The small OGR in the Scott Peak Project Area (VCU 444) was one of the OGRs recommended for adjustment.

Four options for the design of the small OGR in VCU 444 were analyzed for the Scott Peak Project Area using old-growth habitat reserve criteria from Appendix K of the Forest Plan and several site-specific factors (Table A1-1). See the Biodiversity section of Chapter 3 of the Scott Peak Final EIS for more information on the Forest Plan old-growth habitat conservation strategy and Appendix K criteria.

As a non-significant amendment to the Forest Plan, I have selected Option 3 as the small old-growth habitat reserve design for VCU 444. Option 3 was developed by the Scott Peak Interdisciplinary Team by modifying Option 2 (see Figure ROD-2). This OGR option does not include Road 6323 within its boundaries in response to Forest Plan direction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the amount of early seral habitat and roads within mapped reserves (Forest Plan Appendix K, pg. K-1). This meets Forest Plan Appendix K criteria for small OGRs. It contains 378 acres of high value deer winter habitat and approximately 585 acres of high value marten winter habitat. It also contains 13 acres of estuary habitat and 28 acres of coarse canopy forest. This option also allows for future access needs into VCU 446.

The Secretary of Agriculture's implementing regulation indicates the determination of significance for a Forest Plan amendment is to be "based on an analysis of the objectives, guidelines, and other contents of the forest plan" (36 CFR 219.10(f)). The Forest Service has issued guidance for what constitutes a "significant amendment" under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). This guidance, in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 5.32, identifies four factors to be used in determining whether a proposed change to a Forest Plan is significant or not significant. These four factors are: 1) timing; 2) location and size; 3) goals, objectives, and outputs; and 4) management prescriptions. The Alaska Region issued a Supplement to FSH 1909.12, Chapter 5.32, effective October 17, 1990, that includes an additional factor that can be considered in determining the significance of a Forest Plan Amendment. This additional factor deals with technical changes. An analysis of these five factors follows.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Timing

The timing factor takes into account when, during the life of the Forest Plan, the proposed change is to take place. Generally, the later the change in the life of the Plan, the less likely it is to be significant.

The Forest Plan revision was completed in 1997, so this change is proposed eight years into the life of the Plan. The Old-growth Habitat Management Prescription in the Forest Plan recognizes that the small mapped reserves have received differing levels of field review and integration of site-specific information in their design. The intent of the Forest Plan was for project level environmental analysis to evaluate the size, spacing, and habitat composition of mapped reserves, for project areas that include or are adjacent to mapped Old-growth Habitat Reserves. Additionally, Forest Plan Appendix K gives specific instruction for how to make these changes.

The Forest Service completed a Five Year Review of the Tongass Forest Plan in December 2004. Based on the Five Year Review and Forest Plan implementation to that date, I determined that the cumulative adjustments to Land Use Designations, in particular those made to adjust small OGRs, were anticipated by the Forest Plan and are relatively small in comparison to the overall land base. The net effect of all the modifications to the old growth reserves has been to enhance the achievement of the Forest Plan's goals for the old growth reserves system (Cole 2004).

For these reasons, I have determined that these proposed changes relevant to timing are not considered significant.

Location and Size

This factor takes into account the location and size of the area involved in the change, and the affected area's relationship to the overall planning area. Generally, the smaller the area affected, the less likely the change is to be significant. Selection of a small OGR for the Scott Peak Project Area (VCU 444) other than the existing Forest Plan OGR would change the mix of suitable and unsuitable acres in the VCU.

Option 1 – Existing Forest Plan OGR

This is the existing small OGR identified in the Forest Plan. The interagency group of biologists who reviewed the OGRs on Kupreanof Island concluded that this OGR for VCU 444 overemphasized high elevation old-growth habitat since 74 percent of the OGR was above 1,500 feet in elevation. The interagency group recommended that this OGR be adjusted.

Location and Attributes

OGR Option 1 is located in the northern part of the Scott Peak Project Area, stretching west towards Portage Bay. Its eastern edge connects to the adjacent Todahl Creek small OGR in VCU 443. It is about 4,381 acres in size, and is linear in shape. It contains about 1,982 acres of productive old-growth. There are no managed stands or classified roads within the OGR.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Option 1 previously removed approximately 1,089 acres of land from the tentatively suitable timber base¹ when the Old-growth Habitat Land Use Designation was established. Relocation of the OGR would return some or all of those acres to the suitable timber base.

OGR Option 1 meets four of the five Forest Plan Appendix K general criteria for size, productive old-growth acres, acres of early seral habitat, and roads. Rather than the preferred circular shape, its shape is linear. A more linear shape decreases the amount of the interior forest habitat relative to forest edge habitat.

Option 1 was not selected because, as noted by the interagency biologist group, it overemphasizes high elevation old-growth habitat with 74 percent of the OGR above 1,500 feet in elevation.

Option 2 – Interagency Biologists’ OGR Design

This option is the OGR recommended by interagency biologists during the Kupreanof Island Analysis (USDA Forest Service 2000a) and again during the interagency biologists’ old-growth habitat review for the Scott Peak Project Area.

Location and Attributes

OGR Option 2 is located in the northeastern part of the Project Area. Its northeastern edge connects to the adjacent Todahl Creek small OGR in VCU 443. It is divided by Twelvemile Creek and is triangular in shape. It is approximately 4,365 acres in size, and contains about 2,535 acres of productive old-growth. This design includes 481 acres of managed stands and 3.8 miles of classified roads, including Road 6323, which might be needed for future access into the adjacent VCU 446. All of the roads within OGR Option 2 are currently in storage² condition (see the Transportation section of Chapter 3 in the Final EIS for more information on roads in the Scott Peak Project Area). Option 2 would result in the largest reduction in suitable acres in the Project Area, approximately 885 acres.

OGR Option 2 meets three of the five Forest Plan Appendix K general criteria for size, productive old-growth acres, and shape. Its triangular shape, which is more circular than linear, includes more interior forest habitat than a more linear area of the same size would, but less than a circular shape. It does not meet the two criteria for minimizing the amount of early seral habitat and roads in an OGR. Compared to the other OGR options, OGR Option 2 includes the most acres of early seral habitat and the most miles of roads.

Option 2 was not selected because Road 6323 may be needed in the foreseeable future for access into adjacent VCU 446. It is generally inconsistent with Forest Plan management

¹ Tentatively suitable timber is forest land that is producing or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood and: a) has not been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service, b) existing technology and knowledge is available to ensure timber production without irreversible damage to soils productivity or watershed conditions, c) existing technology and knowledge, as reflected in current research and experience, provides reasonable assurance that it is possible to restock adequately within five years after final harvest, and d) adequate information is available to project responses to timber management activities. Suitable timber is tentatively suitable forest land which the Forest Plan determined was appropriate for timber production.

² Storage is the process or action of closing a road to vehicle traffic and placing it in a condition that requires minimum maintenance to protect the environment and preserve the facility for future use.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

prescriptions to designate an OGR in an area where future road access will be needed. In addition, the State of Alaska in the most recent Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP, August 2004) identified a road between Petersburg and Kake as one of 34 essential transportation and utility corridors to be preserved to meet future needs. This road connection may include Road 6323. The state requested that the Forest Service incorporate all of these transportation and utility corridors into the Forest Plan and reserve and protect these corridors for these purposes. Adoption of the SATP “is an official expression of state policy that no other action by any other party should be taken (such as designations of wilderness areas) that would interfere with public use of any of the mapped corridors. In addition, the state requests that the Forest Service contribute to state efforts by improving and connecting forest roads that are located within essential road corridors identified by the state (SATP, pg.18).” OGR Option 2 is not responsive to the State’s policy and would compromise future management of Road 6323 and access into VCU 446.

Selected Option 3 – Interdisciplinary OGR Option 3

The Scott Peak Interdisciplinary Team developed this option by modifying Option 2. This OGR option does not include Road 6323 within its boundaries in response to Forest Plan direction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the amount of early seral habitat and roads within mapped reserves (Forest Plan Appendix K, pg. K-1). Option 3 is responsive to the State’s policy for transportation and utility corridors discussed above and allows for the future management of Road 6323 and access into VCU 446.

Location and Attributes

OGR Option 3 is located in the northeastern part of the Project Area. Its northeastern edge connects to the adjacent Todahl Creek small OGR in VCU 443. It is divided by Twelvemile Creek and is triangular in shape. It is approximately 3,915 acres in size, and contains about 2,547 acres of productive old-growth. It includes 379 acres of managed stands, and two miles of classified roads which are currently in storage condition. Option 3 would reduce the amount of suitable forest land in the VCU by approximately 873 acres, slightly less than Option 2.

OGR Option 3 meets three of the five Forest Plan Appendix K general criteria for size, productive old-growth acres, and shape. Its triangular shape, which is more circular than linear, includes more interior forest habitat than a more linear area of the same size would, but less than a circular shape. It does not meet the two criteria for minimizing the amount of early seral habitat and roads in an OGR. Compared to OGR Option 2, OGR Option 3 includes fewer acres of early seral habitat and fewer miles of roads. Options 1 and 4 do not include early seral habitat or roads.

OGR Option 3 was selected because it includes much of the same wildlife habitat considered important in the Interagency OGR Option 2 (high value deer and marten winter habitat, key interior old-growth habitat, low elevation productive old-growth, and the lower Twelvemile Creek riparian area and estuary). The advantage of Option 3 is that it includes these features without including Road 6323 so that the option of providing future access into the adjacent VCU 446 along this road can be maintained.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Option 4 – Interdisciplinary OGR Option 4

The Scott Peak Interdisciplinary Team designed OGR Option 4 as an option that would not include any roads or managed stands within its boundaries. This option is bounded by existing roads and managed stands along its eastern and northern edges. The Petersburg Creek – Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness, a large old-growth habitat reserve, is adjacent to the southwestern boundary of this OGR option.

Location and Attributes

OGR Option 4 is located in the southwestern part of the Project Area, adjacent to the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. OGR Option 4 is 4,237 acres in size, and is triangular in shape. It includes about 2,217 acres of productive old-growth. It does not contain any early seral habitat (second-growth) or classified roads. Selection of OGR Option 4 would reduce suitable acres in the Project Area by approximately 396 acres. This reduction would be less than half that of Options 2 or 3.

OGR Option 4 is the only one of the four OGR options that meets all five Forest Plan Appendix K general criteria for size, productive old-growth acres, shape, early seral habitat, and roads. Its triangular shape, which is more circular than linear, includes more interior forest habitat than a more linear area of the same size would, but less than a circular shape. It includes no roads or early seral habitat within its boundaries, although several managed stands and two classified roads are adjacent to the north and east boundaries of this OGR option.

Option 4 was not selected because it contains substantially less high value deer winter habitat than Option 3.

Goals, Objectives, and Outputs

This factor examines whether the change alters long-term relationships between the levels of goods and services projected by the Forest Plan. In most cases, changes in outputs are not likely to be a significant change in the Forest Plan unless the change would forego the opportunity to achieve an output in later years.

Goals

The Forest Plan goal for Biodiversity is to maintain healthy forest ecosystems; and, to maintain a mix of habitats at different spatial scales (i.e. site, watershed, island, province, and forest) capable of supporting the full range of naturally occurring flora, fauna, and ecological processes native to Southeast Alaska. The adjustment to this reserve is consistent with the goals of the Forest Plan.

Objectives

The Forest Plan objectives are to maintain a Forest-wide system of old-growth forest habitat (includes: reserves, non-development LUDs, and beach, estuary, and riparian corridors) to sustain old-growth associated species and resources; and, to ensure that the reserve system meets the minimum size, spacing, and composition criteria described in Appendix K of the Forest Plan. The adjustments to this reserve are specifically designed to meet Forest Plan Objectives.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Outputs

Adjustment of this reserve will have a relatively minor effect on the Forest Plan outputs on a Forest-wide basis, primarily because the change in the acres of LUDs that allow scheduled timber harvest is relatively small. There is a net decrease of 873 acres of forest lands classed as suitable for timber production within VCU 444, which is minor when considered across the Tongass National Forest. Suitable forest land is defined in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) by the following criteria:

- The land is forest land capable of producing 20 cubic feet per acre per year of wood volume.
- Technology is available to ensure timber production from the land without irreversible resource damage to soils productivity or watershed conditions.
- There is reasonable assurance that the land can be adequately restocked.
- The land is not withdrawn from timber production by an Act of Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service (e.g., Wilderness Areas or Resource Natural Areas).

Management Prescriptions

This factor accounts for whether the change in a management prescription is only for a specific situation or whether it would apply to future decisions throughout the planning areas. It evaluates how the change alters the desired future condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced.

None of the standards and guidelines associated with the Management Prescriptions has been changed as a result of this amendment. The changes to the mapped small Old-growth Habitat Reserves apply only to this specific situation. These changes also would apply in future management; however this action does not preclude future modifications being made so long as the standards and guidelines for the management prescription are achieved. The proposed amendment fulfills the desired future condition for the Old-growth Habitat LUD Management Prescription as defined in the Forest Plan and would not significantly affect the goods and services produced.

Technical Changes

Technical changes to a Plan's management direction may be made on the basis of new information about the actual resource characteristics of the area. This category does not apply to this case.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Table A1-1
Small Old-growth Habitat Reserve Options for VCU 444

Forest Plan Appendix K Criteria for VCU 444		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
General Criteria					
Total acres (should be at least 3,858 acres) ¹		4,381	4,365	3,915	4,237
Acres of POG (should be at least 1,929 acres) ²		1,982	2,535	2,547	2,217
Shape (should be more circular than linear)		Linear	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular
Acres of early seral habitat (seek to minimize)		0	481	379	0
Miles of classified road (seek to minimize)		0	3.8	2	0
Site-specific Factors					
Key interior old-growth patches (acres)		1,321	1,281	1,221	768
High value deer winter habitat (acres)		103	535	378	140
High value marten winter habitat (acres)		333	671	585	534
Total acres of high volume strata		748	809	680	609
Total acres of medium volume strata		1,224	1,361	1,438	921
Total acres of low volume strata		10	365	428	686
Total acres below 1,500 ft. elevation ³		1,061	3,603	3,636	3,822
Total acres below 800 ft. elevation ⁴		302	2,919	3,273	2,860
Contains the largest block of contiguous old-growth within a watershed?		No	Yes	No	Yes
Known or suspected goshawk nesting habitat		Unlikely	Suspected	Suspected	Known
Known or suspected marbled murrelet nesting habitat		Suspected	Suspected	Suspected	Suspected
Rare features	Alpine Lakes	Yes	No	No	No
	Estuary acres	4 acres	13 acres	13 acres	0 acres
	Coarse canopy forest ⁵	120 acres	218 acres	28 acres	100 acres

¹ The Appendix K criterion for size of a small OGR is that the OGR should include at least 16 percent of the VCU. The total size of VCU 444 is 24,112 acres.

² The Appendix K criterion is that a small OGR meeting the minimum criterion for size should contain at least 50 percent productive old-growth (high, medium, and low volume strata).

³ Marten standards and guidelines are applied in high volume strata areas below 1,500 feet in elevation.

⁴ Low elevation old-growth is important for many old-growth associated species, including deer.

⁵ Volume class 6 and 7 (Refer to the Timber and Vegetation section of Chapter 3 in the Final EIS for an explanation of volume classification).

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Cumulative Changes

The Scott Peak Project Area EIS is one of 22 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions as of October 2005 to make non-significant amendments to the Forest Plan by modifying LUD boundaries. These changes are tracked with a monitoring question posed by the Forest Plan and are part of the Tongass National Forest Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report.

The Niblack Environmental Assessment (EA) changed a Wild River non-development LUD to Old-growth Habitat and Timber Management LUDs. The other amendments involved enlargement or reduction of Old-growth Habitat LUDs, typically exchanging acres with one of the development LUDs in order to more effectively meet Forest Plan objectives. Usually, whenever an Old-growth Habitat LUD was expanded, there was a corresponding reduction of acres suitable for timber harvest. Likewise, an Old-growth Habitat LUD size reduction usually meant an increase in suitable acres. Often non-forest or low-productive forest lands are included in the modification of shape of a small reserve due to the natural fragmentation of forest in Southeast Alaska.

While the LUD changes within each project decision constituted non-significant Forest Plan amendments, Table A1-2 displays the cumulative effect on suitable acres for all projects. For each project, the table displays acres that were changed from a non-development LUD to a resource development LUD, or from a development LUD to a non-development LUD and the net change in acres suitable for timber management. The net change in suitable acres represents approximately two percent of the suitable land base. As stated in the *Five Year Review of the Tongass Forest Plan* (Cole 2004), “the cumulative adjustments to Land Use Designations, in particular those made to adjust small OGRs, are relatively small in comparison to the overall land base”.

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Table A1-2

Effects of Forest Plan Amendments on Acres Suitable for Timber Harvest as of October 2005

Project	Non-development to Development LUD Suitable Acres	Development to Non-development LUD Suitable Acres	Net Change in Suitable Acres
Scott Peak EIS	1,089	1,962	-879
Couverden EIS	0	790	-790
Polk Small Sales	0	153	-153
Kensington Gold EIS	0	1,615	-1,615
Madan EIS	377	1,501	-1,124
Finger Mountain EIS	0	593	-593
Cholmondoley EIS	894	6,873	-5,979
Woodpecker EIS	180	130	+50
Threemile EIS	458	826	-368
Fire Cove Salvage	186	633	-447
Salty EA	99	126	-27
Luck Lake EIS	257	794	-537
Doughnut EIS	0	19	-19
Kuakan EIS	416	542	-126
Sea Level EIS	185	500	-315
Canal Hoya EIS	0	151	-151
Chasina EIS	0	78	-78
Control Lake EIS	446	142	+304
Crystal Creek EIS	481	1,153	-672
Nemo Loop EA	177	932	-755
Todahl Backline EA	2	363	-361
Niblack EA	252	0	+252
Total	5,499	19,876	-14,383

Non-significant Forest Plan Amendment

Conclusion

Based on a consideration of the factors above, I conclude that adoption of this amendment is not significant in the context of the National Forest Management Act. This amendment is fully consistent with current Forest Plan goals and objectives. The amendment provides added detail on implementation of the Old-growth Habitat Management Prescriptions of the Forest Plan.

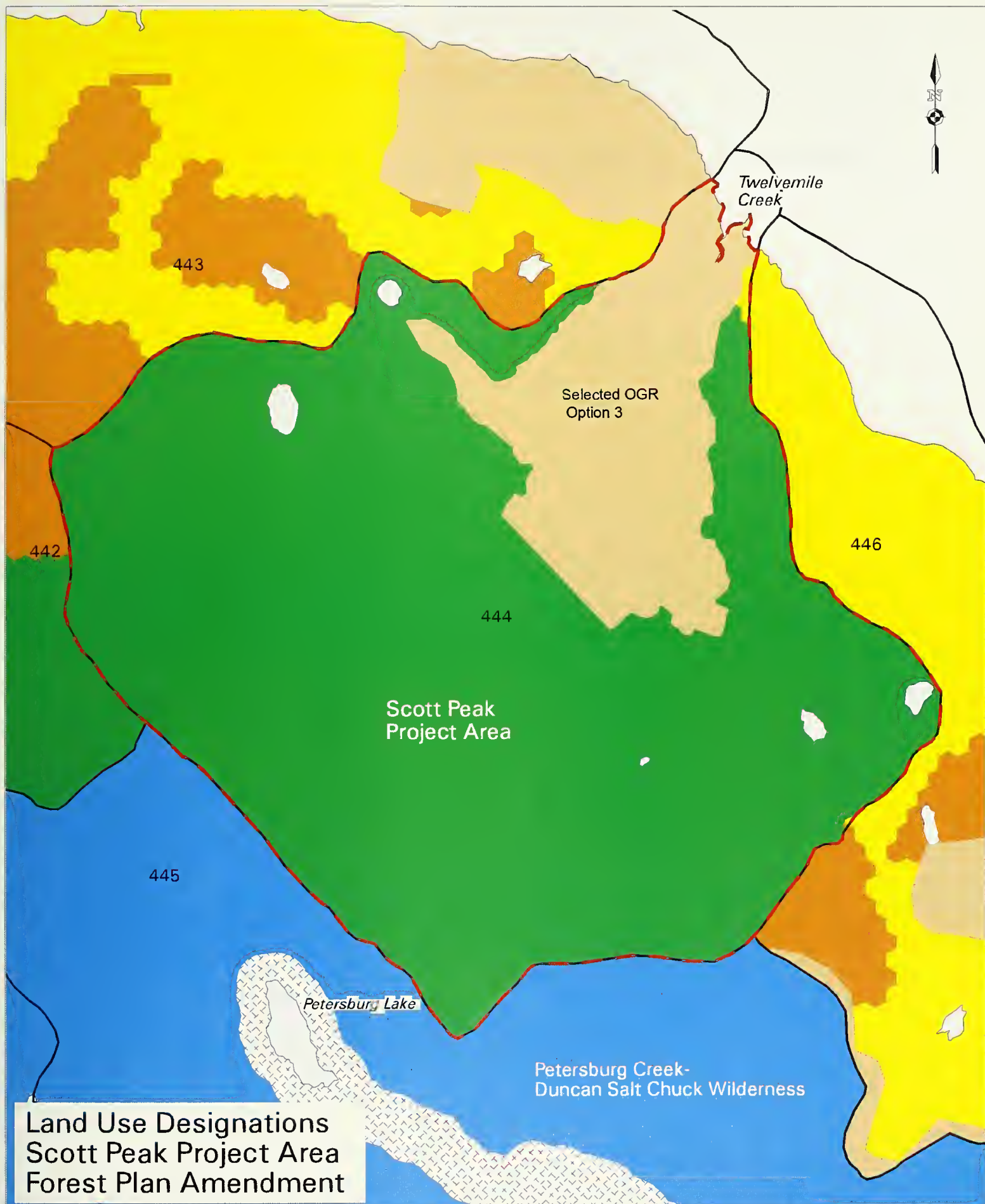
I hereby amend the Forest Plan with this non-significant amendment by adjusting the small OGR in VCU 444 with Option 3 as shown on Figure ROD-2 and documented in the project planning record for the Scott Peak Project Area EIS.



FORREST COLE
Forest Supervisor

9.20.06

DATE



ROD-2

ROD Appendix 2

Selected Alternative Unit and Road Cards

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

VOLUME 100, PART 1, 2000

ISSN 0022-278X

Introduction to Appendix 2

Activity cards are used to explain site-specific proposed activities and any resource concerns and responses. These activities include timber harvest units and new and existing roads needed for timber harvest. Both narratives and maps showing site-specific information are provided.

The first section of this introduction explains the harvest treatments for this entry. The next section provides a summary of resource concerns and design elements used in response to those concerns. These actions can be either from the Forest Plan or project-specific.

The introduction to Appendix 2 is followed by a map and narrative card for each selected harvest unit. These units are in numerical order.

The last section of this Appendix lists existing classified roads used for the Selected Alternative. It describes the current conditions and management objectives, and proposed management objective changes. The Introduction to the Road Cards explains the terminology used for the Road Management Objective narrative.

Unit Card Header Information

Each unit card has a header block with information used to generally describe the stand's size, location, and estimated timber volume to be harvested. Each header block contains the following information:

Unit Number: This is the number assigned to the unit block during the Logging Systems and Transportation Analysis development.

Unit Acres: This is an estimate of total acres (rounded to the nearest whole acre) within the unit using aerial photos and GIS information.

Aerial Photo: This is the identification number of the most recent aerial photograph taken during 1998-99.

Land Use Designation (LUD): Land Use Designation is a defined area of land, identified by the Forest Plan, to which specific management direction is applied. All harvest units in the Selected Alternative are in the Timber Production LUD.

Net Timber Volume: This is an estimated volume to be harvested in thousand board feet (mbf). This was derived from field estimates and the stand exam program. A cruise will be done during implementation to determine an accurate volume before the timber is sold.

TM Compartment and Stand: This identifier is used for tracking purposes from planning through implementation and future treatments.

Volume Strata Acres: This is the approximate number of acres of productive old-growth in the unit broken out by volume strata. Three volume strata (high, medium, and

Unit and Road Cards

low) are recognized in the Forest Plan and explained in the Timber and Vegetation section of Chapter 3 in the Final EIS.

Existing Stand Condition: This is the developmental stage of the physical and temporal distribution of trees and other plants in a forested area.

Silvicultural Prescription: This provides detailed direction about the methods, techniques, timing, and monitoring of vegetative treatments.

Logging Method/Transportation: This identifies the method of yarding in the unit and the method of access to the unit.

Silvicultural Systems

Silvicultural systems refer to a complete set of treatments used to manage forest stands and forest landscapes over long periods of time. This process includes the harvest or regeneration of the stand, intermediate cuttings, and other treatments necessary for the development and replacement of the forest stand.

Silvicultural systems are applied through prescriptions, the written records of the examination, diagnosis, and treatment regimes prescribed for the stand.

A diagnosis has been written for each unit and a complete silvicultural prescription has been written for each unit in the Selected Alternative. These prescriptions provide guidance for treatments following this proposed timber harvest, including subsequent entries, thinning, or pruning.

Silvicultural prescriptions include these unit cards plus the sale layout and marking guidelines that will be completed for each of the timber harvest units that are included in the Selected Alternative. Minor changes can be expected during implementation to better meet on-site resource management and protection objectives. Minor adjustments to unit boundaries are also likely during final layout for the purpose of improving logging system efficiency or for site conditions.

These cards will be used during the implementation process to assure that all aspects of the project are implemented within applicable standards and guidelines. If needed, during sale implementation an interdisciplinary team will discuss any changes. Subsequent analysis and supplements to the EIS may be needed, as determined by the Responsible Official. Similar cards will be used to document any changes to the planned layout, as the actual layout and harvest of the units occur with project implementation.

The regeneration methods found on the unit cards are descriptions of what will occur under various silvicultural systems. Three silvicultural systems based on the number of age classes (even-aged, two-aged and uneven-aged) and three regeneration methods (clearcut, clearcut with reserves, and single-tree selection) were used to develop these harvest treatments. The regeneration method for each unit in the Selected Alternative is the initial entry for the silvicultural prescription.

Even-aged Management, Clearcut

This prescription is suitable for mature stands. Objectives of this prescription are to: (1) improve timber harvest economics by minimizing road building and yarding distances, (2) preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from windthrow or logging damage, and (3) retain trees to meet Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines.

The desired future condition is an even-aged stand of the same species composition as the original stand. Except for reserve trees, all trees greater than 9 inches DBH would be harvested. Reserve trees would be retained to meet site-specific resource objectives, including: (1) Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines, (2) Stream Channel Best Management Practices, and (3) windfirm buffers to protect adjacent stands of timber in medium to high risk windthrow areas. The new stand will consist of residual trees with less than 15 percent of the basal area of the pretreated stand, and new trees established after harvest. This treatment mimics the results of a large, naturally-occurring wind event. Natural regeneration is expected to be abundant.

In units where there is high value marten habitat, reserve trees will be retained in clumps ½-acre to two acres in size wherever high value marten habitat exists. For example, if four acres in a 23-acre unit are in high value marten habitat, then 15 percent of the stand basal area on four acres will be retained. Additional reserve trees are expected to serve as windfirm buffers for streams and adjacent stands of timber where prescribed for individual units. Where prescribed, windfirm buffers approximately 100 feet wide and consisting of 25 trees per acre up to 18" in diameter will be retained. Operational feasibility and safety will be considered when selecting reserve tree clumps or groups.

The next entry will be in approximately 110 years. All reserve trees will be maintained throughout the entire rotation. Intermediate treatments that follow the harvests may include thinning and pruning.

Two-aged Management, Clearcut with Reserves

This prescription is most suitable to old-growth stands or other stands with a wide representation of diameter classes. The desired future condition of this prescription will be achieved by regenerating a two-aged stand of mixed species. The new stand will consist of residual trees with at least 15 percent of the basal area of the pretreated stand, and new trees established after harvest. In units where there is high value marten habitat, reserve trees will be left in clumps one-half acre to two acres in size wherever high value marten habitat exists. This treatment mimics the results of natural disturbance events. Natural regeneration is expected to be abundant.

Objectives of this prescription are to: (1) improve timber harvest economics by minimizing road building and yarding distances, (2) retain trees to meet Forest Plan Marten Standards and Guidelines, and (3) retain additional habitat where heavy use by bear, deer, marten, and squirrel is evident.

The two criteria for two-aged management will be met for density and distribution of created openings (see the Timber and Vegetation section of Chapter 3 of the Final EIS for a description of these criteria). Reserve trees are expected to serve as windfirm buffers for streams and adjacent stands of timber where prescribed for individual units. Where

Unit and Road Cards

the residual stand structure does not fulfill the needs of a windfirm buffer, trees up to 18" in diameter will be selected to serve windfirm buffer needs. Generally, 25 small diameter trees (<16" DBH) per acre will be needed to serve as a windfirm buffer where prescribed.

Operational feasibility and safety will be considered when selecting reserve tree clumps or groups. It is recognized that where two-aged management is applied to areas of high windthrow risk, there may be some windthrow in the leave trees. This risk is tolerated because if blowdown occurs, the trees would still have benefits to wildlife and would still contribute to stand structure.

Approximately 15 percent of the live and dead tree basal area will be reserved in order to meet marten standards and guidelines on acres meeting the criteria for high value marten habitat (for example, if four acres in a 23-acre unit are high value marten habitat, then 15 percent of the basal area on four acres would be retained). These reserve trees will generally be clumped or grouped in 1/2-acre to two acre patches.

Additional green tree retention is proposed for Unit 298. Approximately 30 percent of the basal area will be retained in the form of clumps one-half to two acres in size. The objective is to provide additional reserve tree habitat where relatively higher amounts of bear, moose, squirrel, and deer use occurred on sampled plots.

The next entry will be in approximately 110 years. All reserve trees will be maintained throughout the entire rotation. Intermediate treatments that follow the harvests may include thinning and pruning.

Uneven-Aged Management

An uneven-aged management single-tree selection silvicultural system is prescribed for Units 169 and 186 in the Selected Alternative. This system will be implemented by removing 50 percent of the stand basal area. Equal proportions of all two-inch diameter classes, ten inches and above, equal to 50 percent of the stand basal area, will be removed, maintaining structural diversity within the stands. Studies in Southeast Alaska have shown that stands harvested with this type of system will establish new regeneration and within 60 years closely approximate their pre-harvest composition and structure (Deal and Tappeiner, 2002).

This silvicultural system provides an opportunity for timber harvest while maintaining enough residual structural diversity in the stand so that it will continue to function as a travel corridor for wildlife traveling between low elevation and high elevation habitat.

The desired future condition of this prescription is to maintain a stand of mixed tree species in three or more distinct age classes scattered throughout the stand. The managed stands will consist of residual trees with at least 50 percent of the basal area of the pretreated stand.

The next entry will be in approximately 75 years when 25 percent of the original stand basal area will be harvested.

Resource Concerns and Responses

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

In the Scott Peak Project Area, most of the economic, wildlife, and windthrow concerns are mitigated with the silvicultural system. Other resource concerns, such as watershed, soils, and fisheries, are mitigated by unit design and adherence to Forest Plan standards and guidelines and best management practices (BMPs).

The use of reserve trees of differing sizes, with an emphasis on snags and dying trees, helps mitigate the loss of old-growth habitat. In clearcuts, where feasible for safety concerns, unmerchantable trees may be left to fulfill this function. Other areas of concern are mitigated through unit selection and the small old-growth habitat reserve selection.

The Selected OGR (Option 3) includes portions of three key interior old-growth habitat patches within the Scott Peak Project Area. These patches are connected to other patches of old-growth through other areas where timber harvest is not allowed, such as estuary, beach, and riparian areas, and other non-development LUDs such as Old-growth Habitat. The Selected OGR will connect to another small OGR in the adjacent VCU, and connect to the beach and estuary fringe, thus maintaining connecting corridors to other important old-growth habitat in the surrounding area.

Marten

The following Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for the American Marten (Forest Plan, pgs. 4-118 and 4-119) will be applied to high value marten habitat in harvest units in the Scott Peak Project Area. The unit cards that follow this introduction show the location of high value marten habitat within harvest units.

- Retain approximately 10-20 percent of the original stand structure.
- Retain an average of at least four large trees per acre (20-30" DBH or greater) for future snag recruitment. Where not available, substitute the next largest trees.
- Retain an average of at least three large decadent (dead or dying) trees per acre (20-30" DBH or greater). Where not available, substitute the next largest decadent trees.
- Retain an average of at least three pieces per acre of down material (logs 20-30 inches or greater in diameter at the large end and 10 feet long), generally distributed throughout the harvest unit.
- Retained trees should have a reasonable assurance of windfirmness.
- Consider adding smaller or younger trees for future structure recruitment and to improve windfirmness.

Implementation of these guidelines helps meet the objective to manage high value marten habitat to retain features of forest stand structure important to marten habitat use. Additional habitat is provided by an old-growth habitat reserve system, which has been adopted and implemented in accordance with Forest Plan direction. Habitat is also retained in beach, estuary, and riparian buffers, and non-development LUDs. Retained corridors of sufficient size to maintain marten prey species also helps mitigate some of these concerns.

Sitka Black-tailed Deer

Changes in deer habitat due to timber harvest may increase populations in the short-term. However, if stands are allowed to mature in a natural fashion, the habitat will, over time, decrease in habitat value through plant succession. Several silvicultural treatments are available to maintain the habitat value to deer and other species. Pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, and pruning help maintain the understory in these stands while allowing the trees to grow faster and straighter.

Reduction of fragmentation is also an important component of maintaining deer habitat. Low-elevation, high value deer habitat occurs on southern slopes with a coarse canopy of older trees. Where practical, corridors will be maintained to allow movement of deer from lower elevation stands to higher elevation stands. As mentioned above, the selection of an old-growth habitat reserve will help mitigate this concern.

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

Queen Charlotte (Northern) Goshawk

Goshawk field surveys were conducted in the Scott Peak Project Area in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. An active nest site was discovered in March 2003, and a fledgling goshawk was observed in the vicinity of the nest site in August 2003. A 131-acre nesting area buffer containing 102 acres of productive old-growth has been designed around this nest. The nest was determined to be inactive in 2004. The nesting area will be monitored and protected, following Forest Plan protocols. Any new nests that may be discovered in the future would also be protected.

Windfirmness

Windthrow concerns will be mitigated through unit design and the selection of windfirm trees for retention. Some of the characteristics of windfirm trees (Harris 1989) include:

- open-grown trees, which have been exposed to storm winds throughout their life,
- dominant trees with crowns well above the average stand height,
- short-trees with a low form class and high stem taper,
- straight trees, with well-formed stems and no lean,
- no stem or root decay and no stem swelling, and
- western redcedar, Alaska yellow-cedar, and immature alder species.

In units with windthrow potential, windfirm buffers will be designed to mitigate the effects of wind on adjacent stands and Riparian Management Areas. Timber harvest will occur in windfirm buffers, but some trees will be retained in order to dissipate wind energy near edges created by cutting. A windfirm buffer will generally be about 100 feet wide along an irregular unit boundary, or along the outside edge of a Riparian Management Area, and consist of approximately 25 dispersed small diameter trees per acre (usually under 18" DBH).

Water Quality and Fisheries

Riparian Management Areas

Forest Plan standards and guidelines direct the design of Riparian Management Areas (RMAs) associated with each stream in the project area. The standards and guidelines prohibit programmed commercial timber harvest in RMAs associated with all Class I, Class II, and most Class III streams, except for right-of-way clearing for road construction. Site-specific adjustments to guidelines may be made only after a detailed watershed analysis and a determination that adjustments are consistent with the Forest Plan objectives for each stream channel type.

RMAs vary in width from the edge of the stream channel according to channel type (Table A2-1) and stream value class (Table A2-2). All Class I and Class II streams are protected from commercial timber harvest within a minimum horizontal distance of 100 feet from the bankfull margins. Depending on the channel type, RMA widths can be up to 140 feet wide on either side of some Class I, Class II, and Class III streams. RMAs adjacent to Class III streams are protected from commercial timber harvest, except along palustrine channel types. RMA widths on Class III streams are topographically delineated along channel types with steep side-slopes and are measured to set distances along other channel types.

Unit card maps show the location of all streams, numbered for reference, and the associated RMAs. RMA widths for each Class I, Class II, and Class III streams are prescribed in the unit card narratives. Unit card narratives also prescribe the location and width of windfirm buffers for protecting RMAs, except where windthrow potential is low.

Logging System Controls

Log yarding practices are based on slope stability, soil disturbance, channel type, and stream class. Additional measures are taken to protect RMAs from possible disturbance associated with tree felling and yarding. Harvest activities near Class I, Class II, and Class III streams require that trees be felled away from the stream and that trees yarded across or along stream courses be fully suspended to minimize the exposure of mineral soil. Trees near Class IV streams are felled away from the stream whenever feasible and logging debris introduced into Class IV streams is removed. Class IV streams are treated as part of the hillside, under slope stability standards and guidelines. The objective is to minimize soil erosion, mass movement, and formation of new channels.

Best Management Practices

The following best management practices (BMPs) will be applied in order to protect water quality in the project area as specified in the Forest Plan (pgs. C-1 to C-3). The BMPs are cited on the unit cards where appropriate. Not all BMPs apply to every situation.

BMP 12.6 (Riparian Area Designation and Protection) – To identify riparian areas and their associated management activities.

Unit and Road Cards

BMP 12.6a (Buffer Design and Layout) – To design streamside buffers to meet objectives defined during the implementation of BMP 12.6.

BMP 12.17 (Revegetation of Disturbed Areas) – To provide ground cover to minimize soil erosion.

BMP 13.5 (Identification and Avoidance of Unstable Areas) – To avoid triggering mass movements and resultant erosion and sedimentation by excluding unstable areas from timber harvest.

BMP 13.9 (Determining Guidelines for Yarding Operations) – To select appropriate yarding systems and guidelines for protecting soil and water resources.

BMP 13.16 (Stream Channel Protection – Implementation and Enforcement) – To provide the site-specific stream protection prescriptions consistent with objectives identified under BMPs 12.6 and 12.6a. Objectives may include the following:

- Maintain the natural flow regime.
- Provide for unobstructed passage of storm flows.
- Maintain integrity of the riparian buffer to filter sediment and other pollutants.
- Restore the natural course of any stream that has been diverted as soon as practicable.
- Maintain natural channel integrity to protect aquatic habitat and other beneficial uses.
- Prevent adverse changes to the natural stream temperature regime.

BMP 14.1 (Transportation Planning) – To assure soil and water resources are considered in transportation planning activities.

BMP 14.2 (Location of Transportation Facilities) – To assure water resources protection measures are considered when locating roads and trails.

BMP 14.3 (Design of Transportation Facilities) – To incorporate site-specific soil and water resource protection measures into the design of roads and trails.

BMP 14.5 (Road and Trail Erosion Control Plan) – Develop erosion control plans for road or trail projects to minimize or mitigate erosion sedimentation and resulting water quality degradation prior to the initiation of construction and maintenance activities. Ensure compliance through effective contract administration and timely implementation of erosion control measures.

BMP 14.6 (Timing Restrictions for Construction Activities) – Minimize erosion potential by restricting the operating schedule and conducting operations during lower risk periods.

BMP 14.7 (Measures to Minimize Mass Failures) – Minimize the chance and extent of road-related mass failures, including landslides and embankment slumps.

BMP 14.8 (Measures to Minimize Surface Erosion) – Minimize the erosion from cutslopes, fillslopes, and the road surface, and consequently reduce the risk of sediment production.

BMP 14.9 (Drainage Control to Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation) – Minimize the erosive effects of concentrated water flows from transportation facilities and the resulting degradation of water quality through proper design and construction of drainage control systems.

BMP 14.10 (Pioneer Road Construction) – Minimize sediment production associated with pioneer road construction.

BMP 14.11 (Timely Erosion Control Measures for Incomplete Projects) – Minimize erosion of and sedimentation from disturbed ground on incomplete projects by completing erosion control work prior to seasonal or extended shutdowns.

BMP 14.12 (Control of Excavation and Sidecast Material) – Minimize sedimentation from unconsolidated excavated and sidecast material caused by road construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.

BMP 14.14 (Control of In-channel Operations) – Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment production.

BMP 14.15 (Diversion of Flows Around Construction Sites) – Identify and implement diversion and de-watering requirements at construction sites to protect water quality and downstream uses.

BMP 14.17 (Bridge and Culvert Design and Installation) – Minimize adverse impacts on water quality, stream courses, and fisheries resources from the installation of bridges, culverts, or other stream crossings.

BMP 14.20 (Road Maintenance) – Maintain all roads in a manner which provides for soil and water resources protection by minimizing rutting, road prism failures, sidecasting, and blockage of drainage facilities.

BMP 14.22 (Access and Travel Management) – Control access and manage road use to reduce the risk of erosion and sedimentation from road surface disturbance, especially during the higher risk periods associated with high runoff and spring thaw conditions.

Process Groups and Channel Types (Forest Plan, pg. D-3)

The Tongass National Forest defines stream channel types according to the Channel Type User Guide (USDA Forest Service, 1992), the foundation upon which aquatic habitat management prescriptions are developed. Channel types are defined within the context of fluvial process groups that describe the interrelationship between watershed runoff, landform relief, geology, and glacial or tidal influences on fluvial erosion and deposition processes. Individual channel type classifications are defined by physical attributes such as channel gradient, channel width, channel pattern, stream bank incision and containment. Table A2-1 shows the Forest Plan codes used on the unit card narratives.

See the Forest Plan (Figure D-1, pg. D-4) for a visual representation of the typical distribution of channel process groups. Each unit card summarizes the protection for a particular unit. Only the channel types found in Scott Peak Project Area timber harvest units are listed.

Unit and Road Cards

Table A2-1
Channel Types in or adjacent to harvest units

Process Group	Channel Type Code	Channel Type Description
Alluvial Fan	AF1	Moderate Gradient Alluvial Fan Channel
Floodplain	FP4	Low Gradient Flood Plain Channel
High Gradient Contained	HC2	Shallowly to Moderately Incised Footslope Channel
	HC5	Shallowly Incised Very High Gradient Channel
	HC6	Deeply Incised Mountain Slope Channel
Moderate Gradient Contained	MC2	Moderate Width and Incision Contained Channel
Moderate Gradient, Mixed Control	MM1	Narrow Mixed Control Channel
Large Contained	LC1	Low Gradient Contained Channel
Palustrine	PA5	Beaver Dam/Pond Channel

Table A2-2
Stream Value Classes

Stream Value Class	Criteria
Class I	Streams and lakes with anadromous or adfluvial fish or fish habitat; or high quality resident fish waters, or habitat above fish migration barriers known to be reasonable enhancement opportunities for anadromous fish.
Class II	Streams and lakes with resident fish or fish habitat and generally steep (6-25 percent or higher) gradient (can also include streams with a 0-6 percent gradient) where no anadromous fish occur, and otherwise not meeting Class I criteria
Class III	Streams are perennial and intermittent streams that have no fish populations or fish habitat, but have sufficient flow or sediment and debris transport to directly influence downstream water quality or fish habitat capability. For streams less than 30 percent gradient, special care is needed to determine if resident fish are present.
Class IV	Other intermittent, ephemeral, and small perennial channels with insufficient flow or sediment transport capabilities to have immediate influence on downstream water quality or fish habitat capability. Class IV streams do not have the characteristics of Class I, II, or III streams and have a bankfull width of at least 0.3 meter (1 foot).

Scenery

The following Visual Quality Objectives from the Forest Plan provide standards for management based on the landscape's scenic characteristics and public viewing concern.

Retention: Changes in the landscape are not visually evident to the average forest visitor.

Partial Retention: Changes in the landscape may be evident to the casual observer but appear as natural occurrences when contrasted with the appearance to the surrounding landscape.

Modification: Changes in the landscape appear very evident but incorporate natural patterns of form, line, color, and texture when contrasted with the appearance of the surrounding landscape.

Maximum Modification: Changes in the landscape appear highly evident and may visually dominate the surrounding landscape, yet when viewed in the background distance these activities appear as natural occurrences.

Scenery Standards and Guidelines

All timber harvest units in the Selected Alternative are within the Timber Production Land Use Designation, where the Maximum Modification VQO applies.

Recreation

There are no individual unit concerns for recreation. Since all proposed timber harvest is within 1,200 feet of an existing road, all of the proposed harvest units are within the Roaded Modified recreation setting. This means the area has already been modified by roads and timber harvest. Additional timber harvest will not change the recreation setting or visitor expectations for the area. There are no Recreation Places or Recreation Sites within the project area that will be directly affected by implementation of the Selected Alternative.

Heritage

Archaeologists have intensively surveyed areas considered to have a high probability of containing heritage resources. Some areas outside the high probability zone and within the area of influence were surveyed to test the heritage resources predictive model. All identified heritage resources are not in the vicinity of the proposed timber harvest and temporary roads. The Forest Service has made a determination of no effect and has received concurrence from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer for all proposed activities.

Geology

No karst or caves are found within the project area. There are no active mining claims found in the project area.

Lands and Special Uses

All lands within and adjacent to the project area are part of the National Forest System. Special use permit outfitter/guide operations have been authorized to conduct activities in VCU 444.

Wetlands

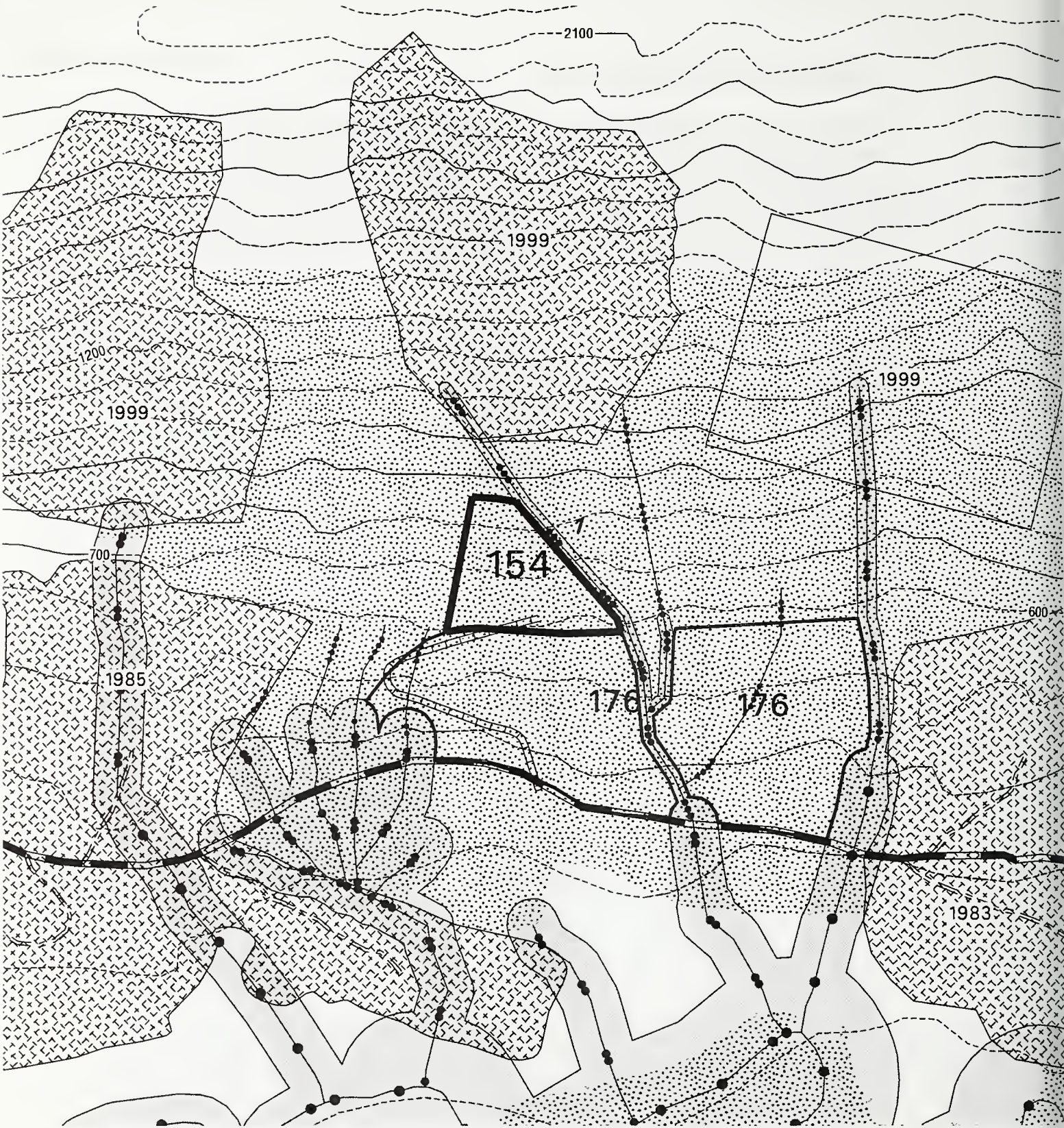
There are some areas of forested wetlands within timber harvest units. Forested wetlands are classed as suitable for timber production in the Forest Plan. There are no other wetland types within harvest unit boundaries.



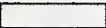






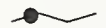




Logging Economics


Yarding costs can increase by over 60 percent in units where retained trees are left scattered throughout the unit instead of in clumps along split lines and boundaries. These increased costs are associated with changes in logging systems, the need to use lateral yarding in cable systems to protect residual trees, and increased set-up times. Reserve trees that are left to meet marten standards and guidelines or other resource concerns will be left in clumps located in areas that minimize the need for lateral yarding or equipment moves.

Uneven-aged management with single-tree selection is the most expensive silvicultural prescription to harvest with any yarding system. Often it requires extra log handling and equipment movements to avoid excessive damage to residual trees.

Selected Alternative Unit 154



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Existing Managed Stands |  | Closed Temporary Roads |
|  | Riparian Management Area |  | Proposed Temporary Roads |
|  | High Value Marten Habitat |  | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
|  | Study Area Boundary | | |
|  | Proposed Unit 154 Boundary | | |
|  | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
|  | Stream Value Class I | | |
|  | Stream Value Class II | | |
|  | Stream Value Class III | | |
|  | Stream Value Class IV | | |
|  | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 13.

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 154	Unit Acres: 7	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1498-36	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 190 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-122	Volume Strata Acres: High 7 Medium Low Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management – clearcut with reserves. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (approximately 15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Stream 1 is Class III, Channel Type HC5.

Response: No timber harvest within the v-notch (side slope break). Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to high windthrow potential.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the outside edge of the Riparian Management Area.

Concern: Temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Concern: Temporary road construction requires two Class IV stream crossings.

Response: Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit contains 7 acres of high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.

Concern: The unit provides a travel corridor to high elevation habitat.

Response: This concern is partially mitigated by the reserve tree patches that would provide future old-growth stand characteristics and stand structure.

Vegetation

Concern: Stand is susceptible to high windthrow potential; unit is located south of Alternatives to Clearcutting Unit 3.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the adjacent stand along the northeastern boundary. Retaining reserve trees in clumps in the remainder of the stand will reduce the risk of windthrow.

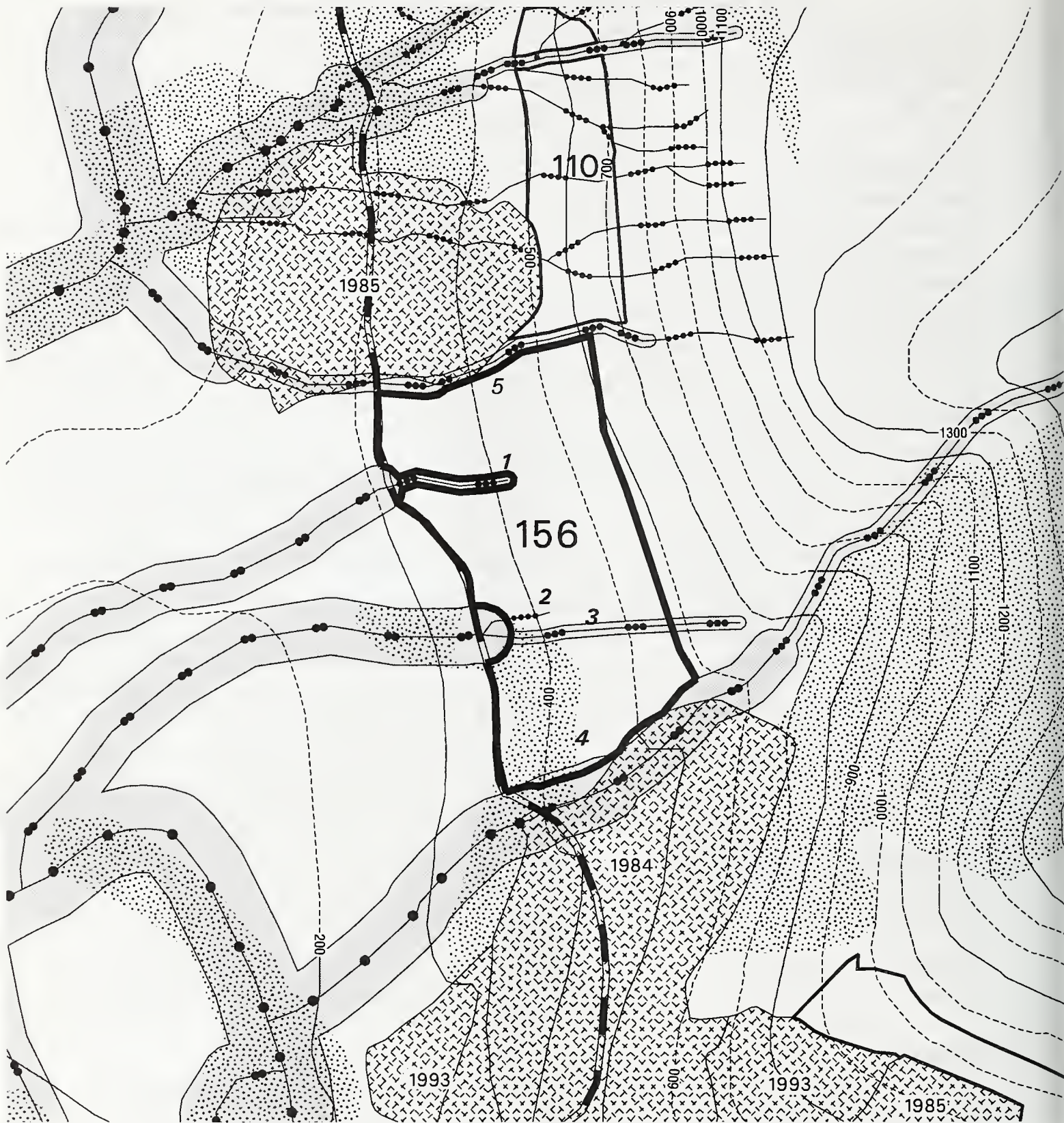
Logging Economics

Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Reserve trees will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 156



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 156 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 13

Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 156	Unit Acres: 36	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-53	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 936 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-85	Volume Strata Acres: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> <div>High 5</div> <div>Medium 31</div> <div>Low</div> <div>Nonforest</div> </div>	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged Management – clearcut. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (<15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / Use existing Road 6323

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Streams 1 and 3 are Class III, Channel Type HC5.

Stream 2 is Class IV.

Stream 4 is Class II, Channel Type HC2.

Stream 5 is Class III, Channel Types HC2 and HC5

Response: *Streams 1, 3, and 5:* No timber harvest within the v-notch (side slope break) on stream.

Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Stream 2: Split yard away from Class IV streams whenever possible. Implement BMPs 13.9 and 13.16.

Stream 4: No timber harvest within 100' (horizontal distance) of stream, or within the v-notch, whichever distance is greater. Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium-high windthrow potential.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the outside edge of the Riparian Management Areas on streams 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit contains 5 acres of high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.

Vegetation

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium-high windthrow potential.

Response: Retaining reserve trees in clumps will reduce the risk of windthrow.

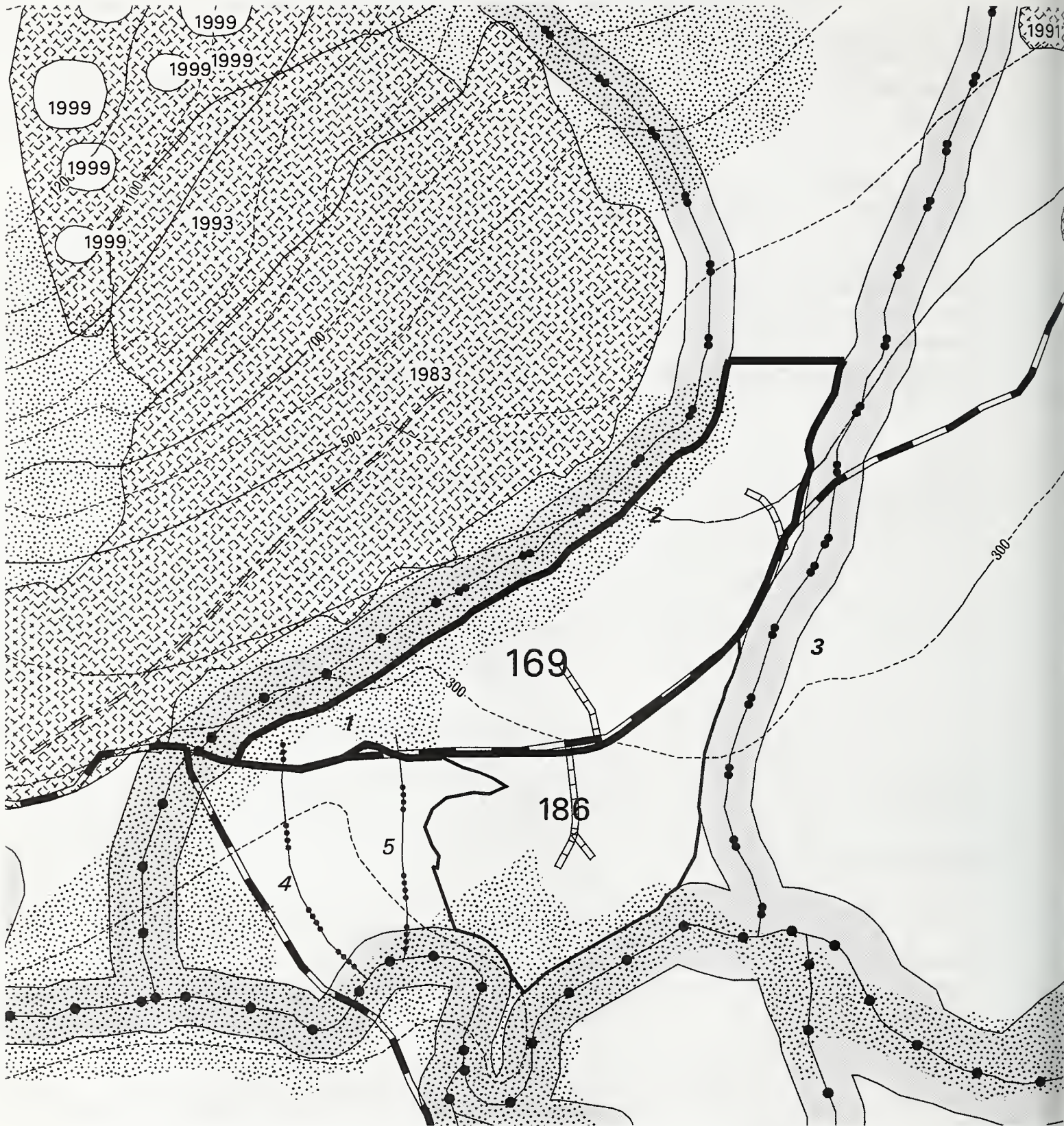
Logging Economics

Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Trees retained to meet marten standards and guidelines will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Vegetation, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 169



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 169 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 1320

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 169	Unit Acres: 41	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-169	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 549 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-49	Volume Strata Acres: High 12 Medium 22 Low 7	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Uneven-aged Management, Single Tree Selection. Retain 50 percent of the basal area of the original stand structure.

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / Two temporary roads and existing Road 6319

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

- Concern:** Stream segment 1 is Class I, Channel Type MM1.
Stream segment 2 is Class II, Channel Type HC2.
Stream 3 is Class II, Channel Types MM1 and PA5.
Streams 4 and 5 are Class IV, Channel Type MM1
- Response:** *Stream segment 2 and PA5 segment of Stream 3:* No timber harvest within 100' of stream segment, or within the channel side slope break, whichever is greater.
Stream segment 1 and MMI segment of Stream 3: No timber harvest within 120' of stream 3, or within the channel side slope break, whichever is greater.
Streams 4 and 5: Split yard away from streams whenever possible. Buck, limb, and top felled trees clear of streamcourses. Remove any slash deposited in streamcourse as a result of timber harvest activities. Implement BMP 13.9.
Streams 1, 2, and 3: Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.
- Concern:** Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.
- Response:** Silvicultural prescription will provide for windfirm buffers along streams.
- Concern:** Temporary road would be constructed.
- Response:** Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

- Concern:** The unit contains 12 acres of coarse canopy habitat which is also high value marten habitat. The unit along with Unit 186 is a corridor for wildlife between interior habitat patches. Harvest of the unit may reduce the function of the corridor, restricting wildlife travel between interior patches.
- Response:** Retaining 50 percent of the basal area throughout the unit through single tree selection, where the coarse canopy areas will have a higher percentage of retention, will help retain old-growth features, old-growth habitat, and a wildlife corridor. A wildlife biologist will assist in the selection of reserve trees within the unit.

Vegetation

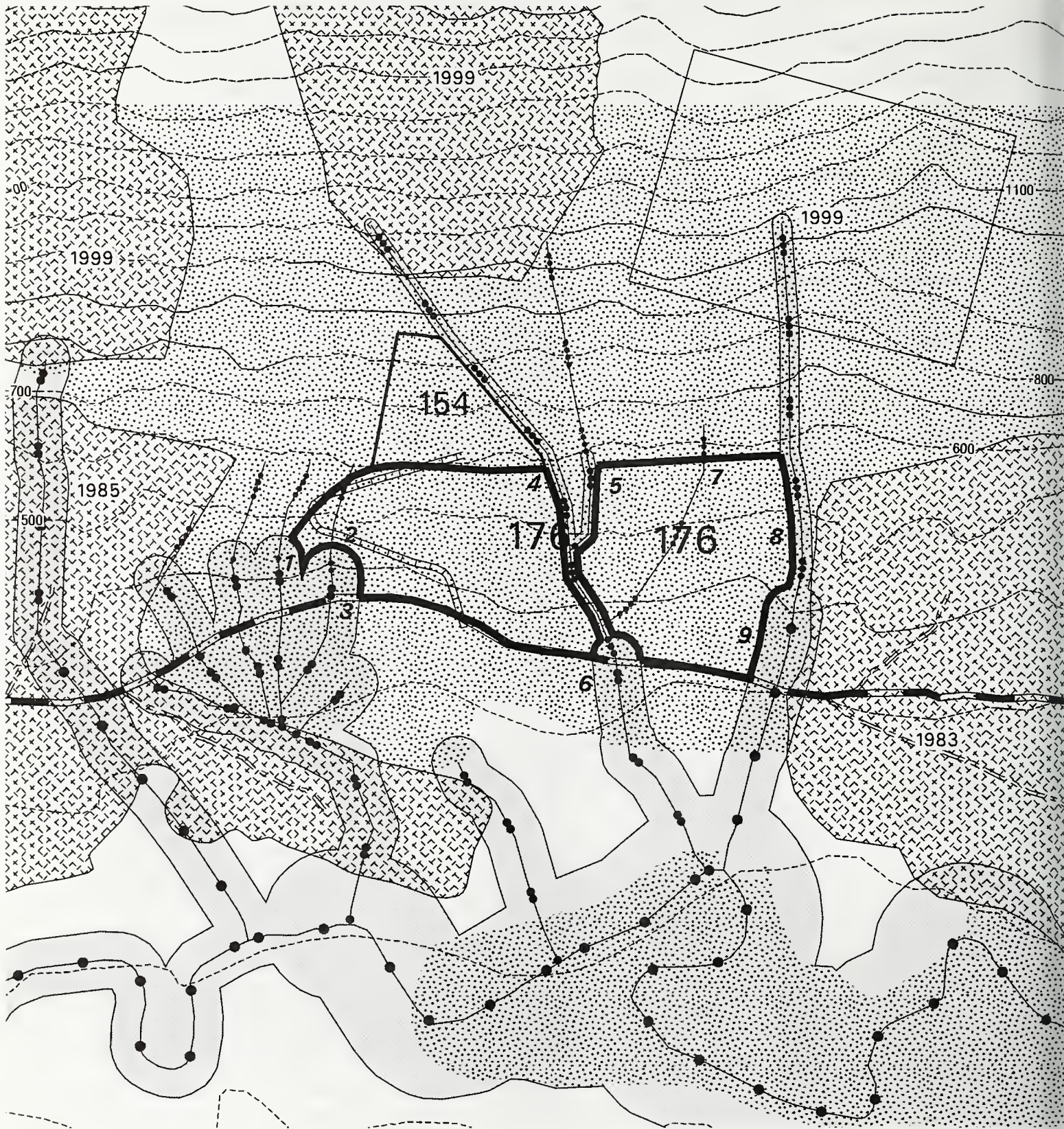
- Concern:** Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.
- Response:** The silvicultural prescription will minimize the risk of windthrow in the remaining stand.








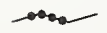
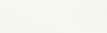
Logging Economics

- Concern:** Retaining individual trees within the unit may increase logging costs.
- Response:** Increased logging costs are an acceptable resource trade-off for wildlife habitat.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 176



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Existing Managed Stands |  | Closed Temporary Roads |
|  | Riparian Management Area |  | Proposed Temporary Roads |
|  | High Value Marten Habitat |  | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
|  | Study Area Boundary | | |
|  | Proposed Unit 176 Boundary | | |
|  | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
|  | Stream Value Class I | | |
|  | Stream Value Class II | | |
|  | Stream Value Class III | | |
|  | Stream Value Class IV | | |
|  | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 1

Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 176	Unit Acres: 34	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-67	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 924 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-50	Volume Strata Acres: High 34 Medium Low Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management – clearcut with reserves. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Shovel yarding / Use existing Road 6319 and one temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Streams 1, 3, and 6 are Class II, Channel Type MM1.

Streams 2 and 7 are Class IV.

Streams 4 and 5 are Class III, Channel Type HC5.

Stream segment 8 is Class III, Channel Type HC6.

Stream segment 9 is Class I, Channel Type MM1.

Response: *Streams 1, 3, 6, and 9:* No timber harvest within 120' of streams, or within the greatest of the extent of the floodplain, riparian vegetation or soils, or riparian associated wetland fens.

Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Streams 4, 5, and 8: No timber harvest within the v-notches (side slope breaks).

Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Streams 2 and 7: Split yard away from stream whenever possible. Implement BMPs 13.16 and 13.9.

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium-high windthrow potential.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the outside edge of the Riparian Management Area on both sides of streams 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, & 9.

Concern: Temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road meets criteria for maintenance level one after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Concern: Temporary road construction requires two Class IV stream crossings.

Response: Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The entire unit is high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.

Concern: The unit provides a travel corridor to low elevation habitat with Unit 154.

Response: This concern is partially mitigated by the reserve tree patches that would provide future old-growth stand characteristics and stand structure.

Vegetation

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium-high windthrow potential.

Response: Retaining reserve trees in clumps will reduce the risk of windthrow.

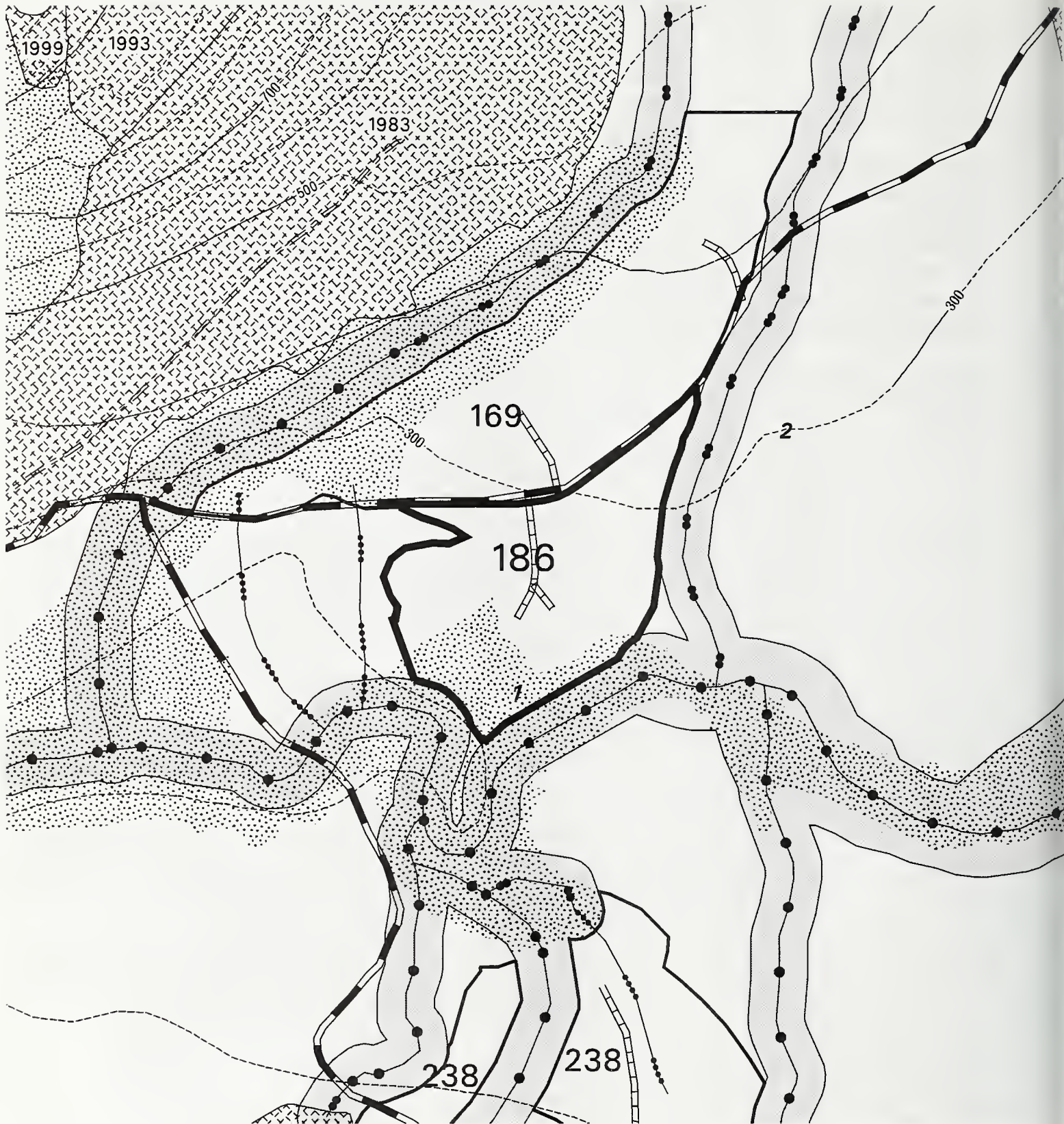
Logging Economics

Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Reserve trees will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 186



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 186 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 1320

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 186	Unit Acres: 24	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-168	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 305 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-52	Volume High 6 Strata Medium 12 Acres: Low 6 Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Uneven-aged Management, Single Tree Selection. Retain 50 percent of the basal area of the original stand structure.

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road and existing Road 6319

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Stream 1 is Class I, Channel Type LC1.

Stream 2 is Class II, Channel Types PA5 and MC2.

Response: *Streams 1 and 2:* No timber harvest within 100' of stream, or within the channel side slope break, whichever is greater. Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.

Response: Silvicultural prescription will provide for windfirm buffers along streams.

Concern: Temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit contains 6 acres of coarse canopy habitat, which is also high value marten habitat. The unit along with Unit 169 is a corridor for wildlife between interior habitat patches. Harvest of the unit may reduce the function of the corridor, restricting wildlife travel between interior patches.

Response: Retaining 50 percent of the basal area throughout the unit through single tree selection, where the coarse canopy areas and the stand beside the stream buffer have a higher percent of retention compared to the remainder of the stand, will help retain old-growth features, habitat, and a wildlife corridor. A wildlife biologist will assist in selection of reserve trees within the unit.

Vegetation

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.

Response: The silvicultural prescription will minimize the risk of windthrow in the remaining stand.

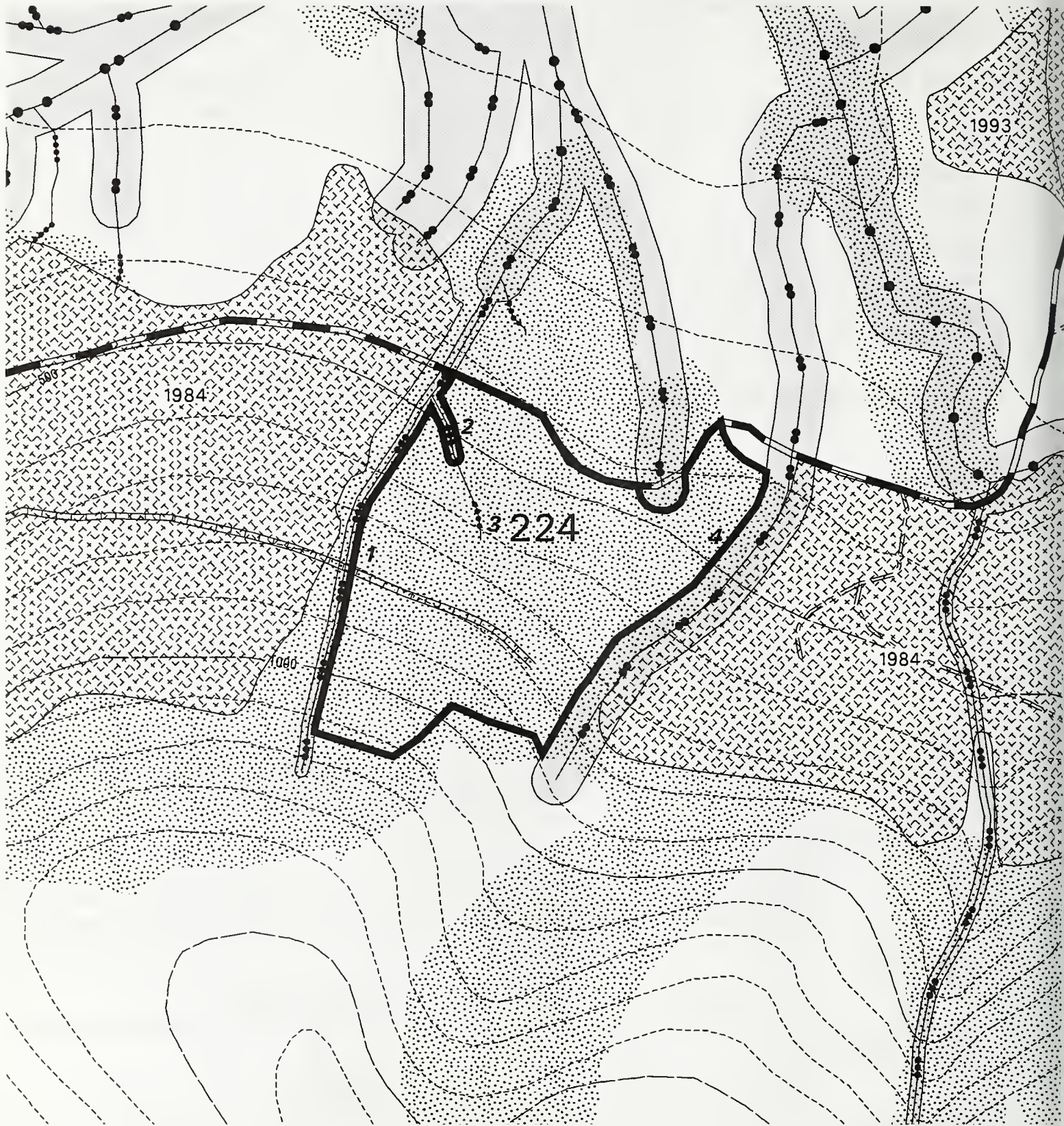
Logging Economics

Concern: Retaining individual trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Increased logging costs are an acceptable trade-off for wildlife habitat protection.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 224



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 500-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Proposed Unit 224 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 1

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 224	Unit Acres: 43	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-51	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 1,168 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-55	Volume Strata Acres:	High 43 Medium Low Nonforest

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management – clearcut with reserves. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (15 percent retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road and existing Road 6323

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Streams 1 and 2 are Class III, Channel Type HC5.

Stream segment 3 is Class IV.

Stream 4 is Class II, Channel Type HC6.

Response: *Streams 1 and 2:* No timber harvest within the v-notches (side slope breaks). Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Stream 3: Split yard away from stream whenever possible. Implement BMPs 13.16 and 13.9.

Stream 4: No timber harvest within 100' of stream, or within the v-notch (side slope break), whichever distance is greater. Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Concern: A temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Concern: Temporary road requires one Class III stream crossing.

Response: Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The entire unit is in high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.

Vegetation

Concern: Leave trees have the potential to be damaged by logging.

Response: Clearcutting with reserves minimizes this concern.

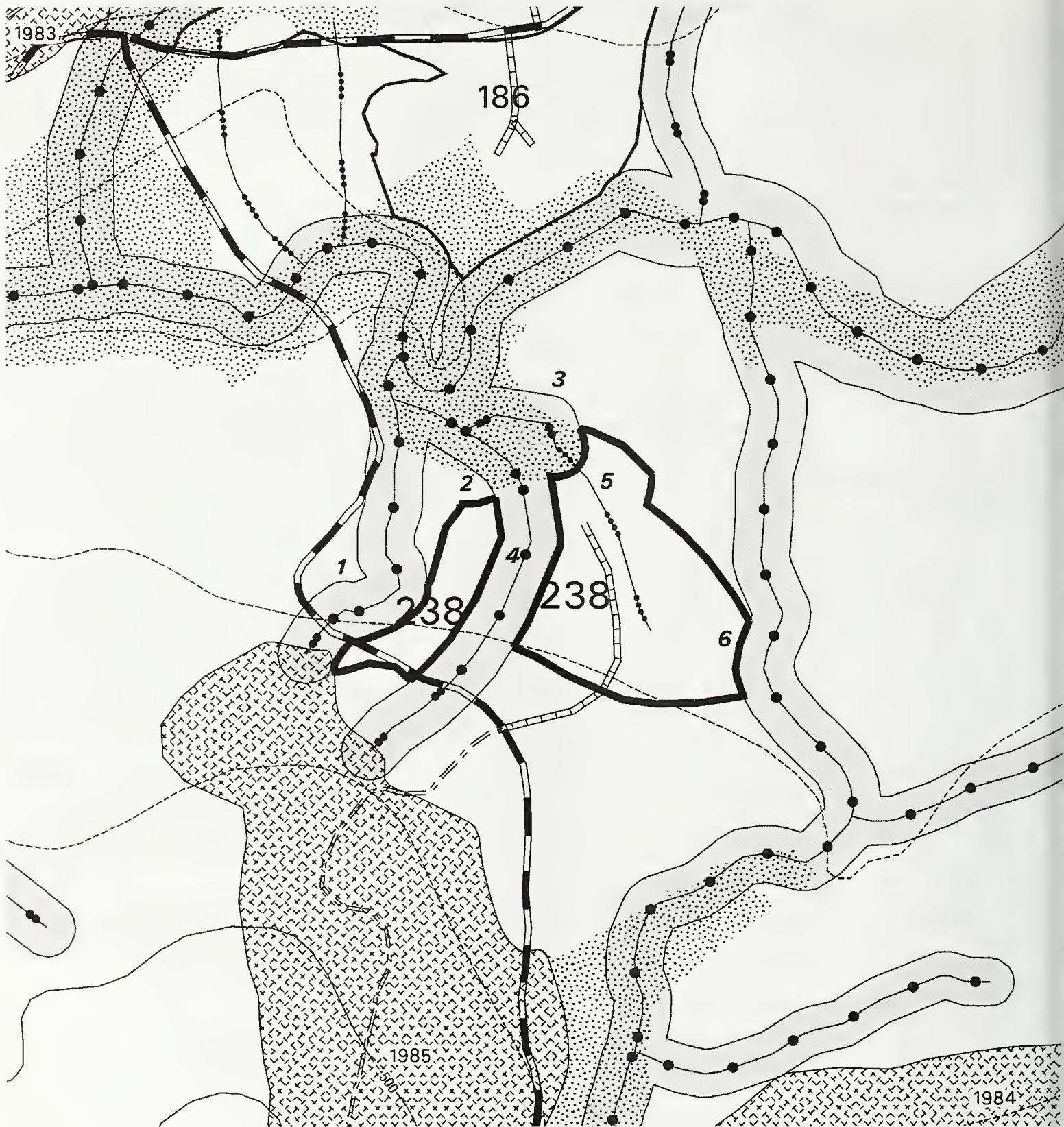
Logging Economics

Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Trees retained to meet marten standards and guidelines will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 238



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 238 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number:	238	Unit Acres:	22	
1999 Aerial Photo:	1698-169	Land Use Designation:	Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 433 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand:	44439-90	Volume Strata Acres:	High Medium Low 22 Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged Management – clearcut. Retain trees for windfirm buffers (<15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Shovel yarding / One temporary road and existing Road 6323

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Stream 1 is Class I, Channel Type MM1 downstream from Road 6324, and Class II MM1 upstream from Road 6324.

Stream segment 2 is Class I, Channel Type MM1.

Stream segment 3 is Class II, Channel Type MM1.

Stream segment 4 is Class I, Channel Type MM1 downstream from Road 6324 and Class II, MM1 upstream from Road 6324.

Stream segment 5 is Class IV.

Stream 6 is Class I, Channel Type LC1.

Response: *Stream segments 1, 2, 3, and 4:* No timber harvest within 120' of streams, or within the greatest of the extent of the floodplain, riparian vegetation or soils, or riparian associated wetland fens. Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Stream 6: No timber harvest within 100' of stream, or within a distance to the top of the side slope break, whichever is greater. Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Stream segment 5: Split yard away from stream whenever possible. Implement BMPs 13.16 and 13.9.

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the outside edge of the Riparian Management Area on both sides of streams 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

Concern: A temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit provides a travel corridor to low elevation habitat.

Response: This concern is partially mitigated by the reserve tree patches that would provide future old-growth stand characteristics and stand structure.

Unit 238 Concerns & Responses (continued)

Vegetation

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the adjacent stand along a small portion of the northeast boundary.

Logging Economics

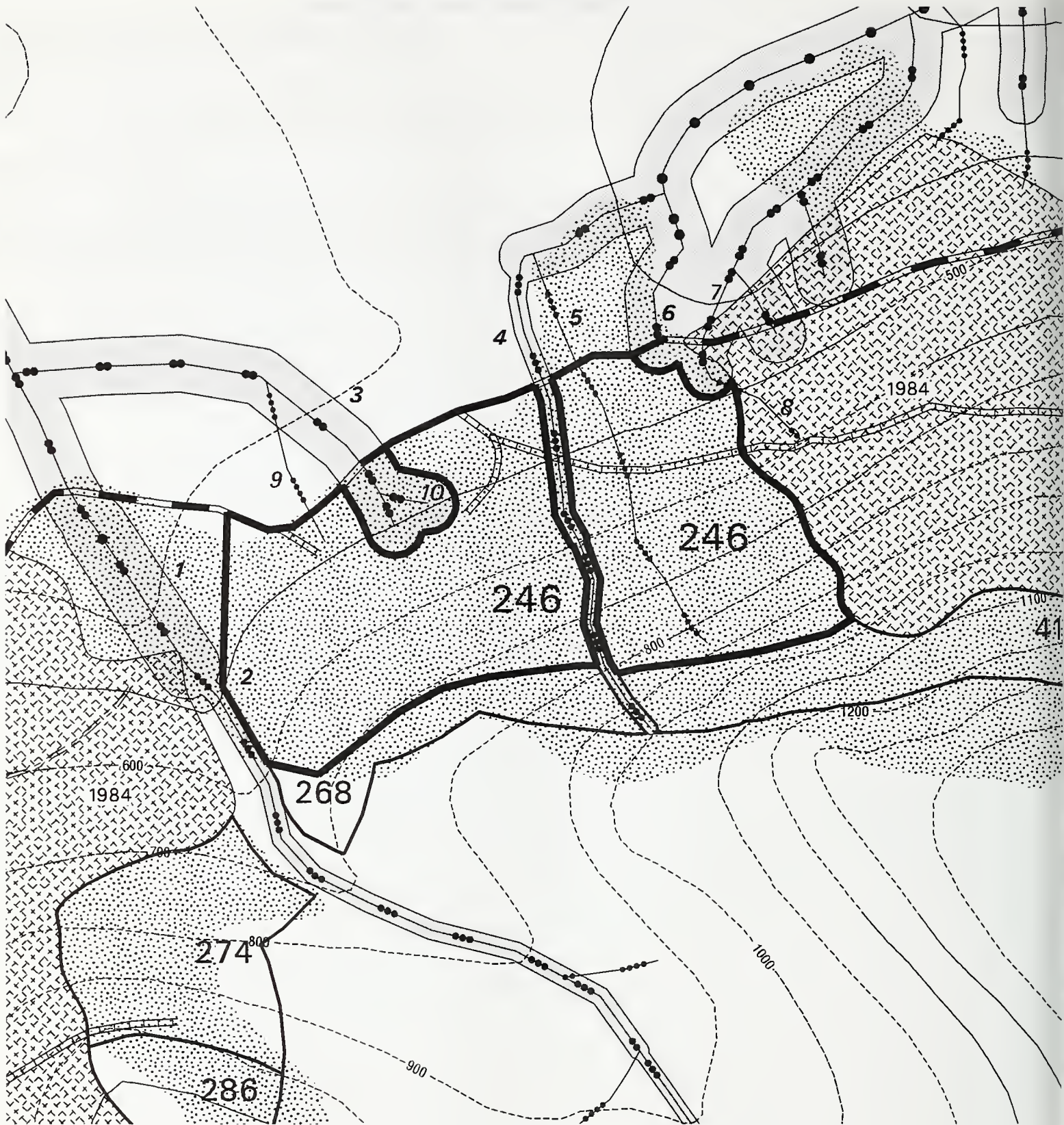
Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Reserve trees will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Page intentionally left blank.

Selected Alternative Unit 246



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 246 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 1212

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 246	Unit Acres: 66	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-70	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 1,820 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-94	Volume Strata Acres: High 66 Medium Low Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management – clearcut with reserves. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable Yarding / Two temporary roads and existing Road 6323

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

- Concern:** Stream segment 1 is Class II, Channel Type AF1.
Stream segment 2 is Class III, Channel Type HC6.
Streams 3, 6 and 10 are Class II, Channel Type MM1.
Stream 4 is Class III, Channel Type HC5.
Streams 5, 8 and 9 are Class IV, Channel Type HC2
Stream 7 is Class II HC2
- Response:** *Stream 1:* No timber harvest within 140' of stream, or within the active portion of the alluvial fan, whichever is greater. No more than 10 percent of the fan will be harvested in a 30-year period. Part of the alluvial fan has already been dropped from the unit.
Streams 2 and 4: No timber harvest within the v-notch (side slope break).
Streams 3, 6 and 10: No timber harvest within 120' of streams, or within the greatest of the extent of the floodplain, riparian vegetation or soils, or riparian associated wetland fens.
All streams (except Streams 5, 8 and 9): Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.
Streams 5, 8 and 9: Split yard away from stream whenever possible. Implement BMP 13.9.
Stream 7: No timber harvest within 100' of stream, or within the v-notch (side slope break), whichever distance is greater.
- Concern:** A temporary road would be constructed.
- Response:** Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.
- Concern:** Requires one Class III and one Class IV stream crossing.
- Response:** Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

- Concern:** The unit contains 65 acres of high value marten habitat.
- Response:** The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.
- Concern:** The unit in combination with Units 169 and 186 provides a travel corridor to high elevation habitat.
- Response:** This concern is partially mitigated by the reserve tree patches that would provide future old-growth stand characteristics and stand structure.

Unit 246 Concerns & Responses (continued)

Vegetation

Concern: Leave trees have the potential to be damaged by logging.

Response: Retaining reserve trees in clumps will reduce this potential.

Logging Economics

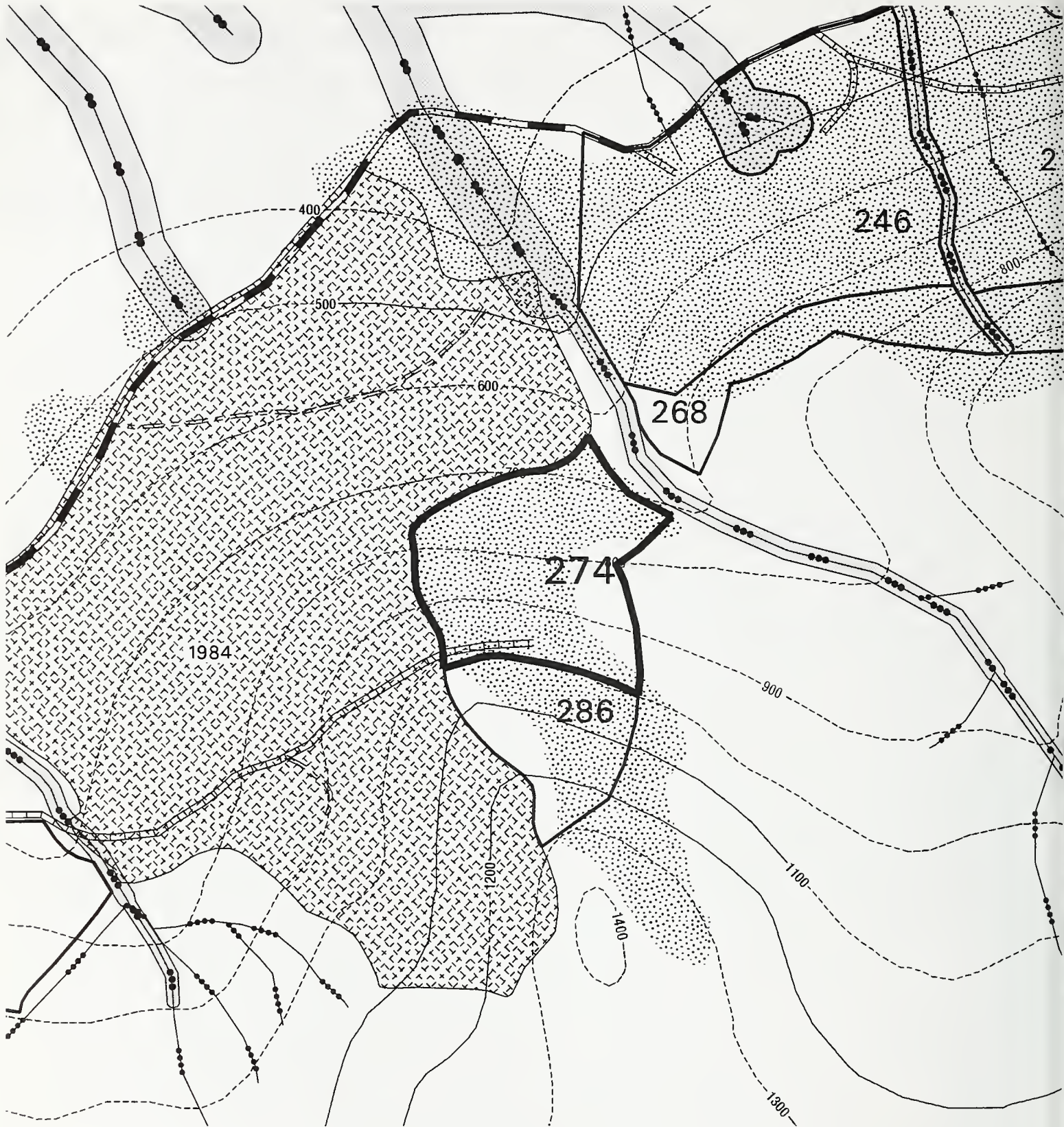
Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Reserve trees will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Page intentionally left blank.

Selected Alternative Unit 274



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 274 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660 1000

 Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 274	Unit Acres: 19	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-70	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 514 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-99	Volume Strata Acres: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> <div>High 16</div> <div>Medium 3</div> <div>Low</div> <div>Nonforest</div> </div>	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged Management – clearcut. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (<15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Concern: Temporary road construction requires two Class II, one Class III, and one Class IV stream crossing.

Response: Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17. Provide fish passage at Class II stream crossings. Schedule in-stream construction activities between July 18th and August 15th on fish streams.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit contains 16 acres of high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.

Vegetation

Concern: Leave trees have the potential to be damaged by logging.

Response: Retaining reserve trees in clumps will reduce this potential.

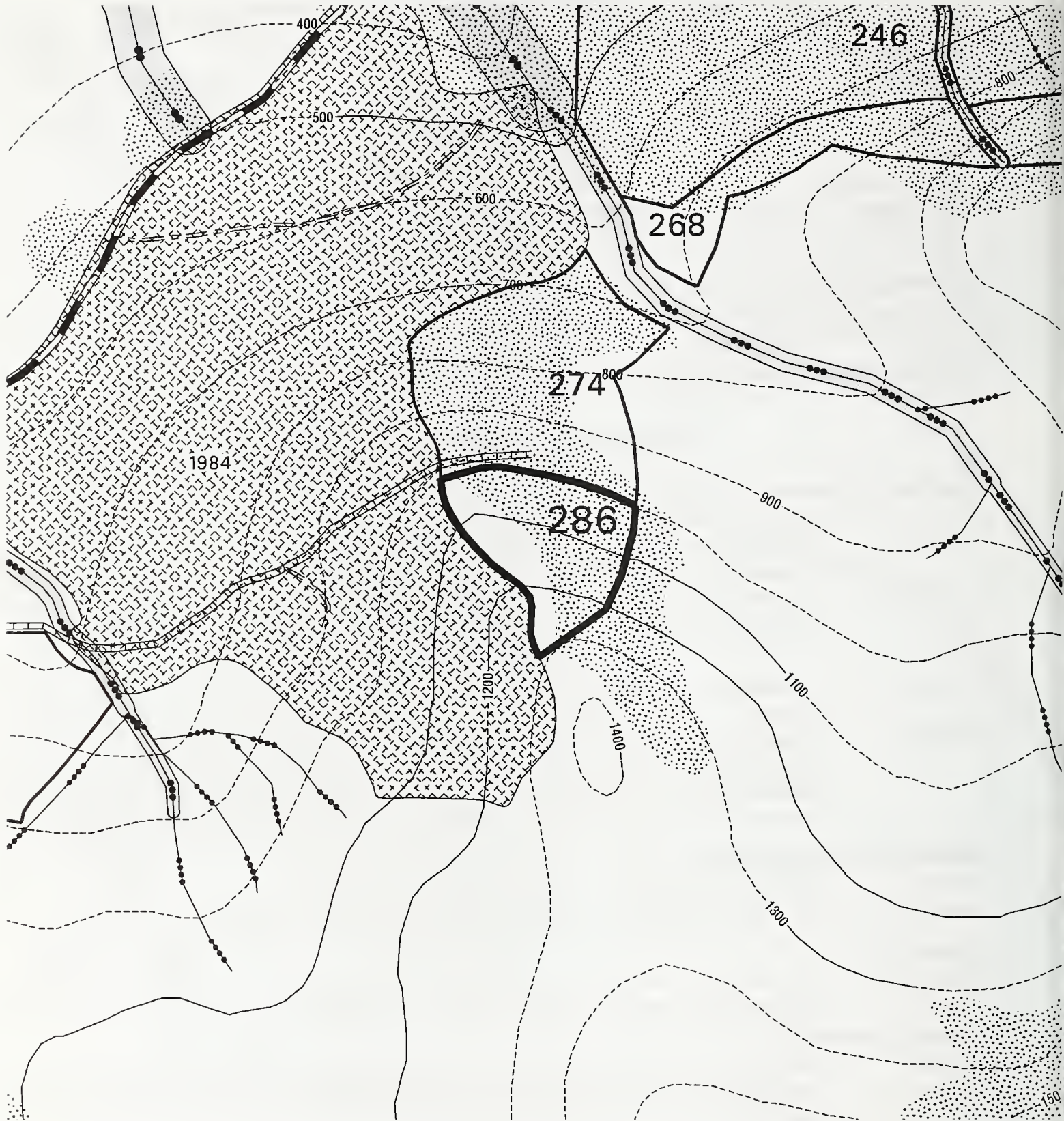
Logging Economics

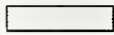

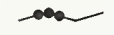
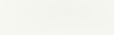
Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.




Response: Trees retained to meet marten standards and guidelines will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 286



-  Existing Managed Stands
-  Riparian Management Area
-  High Value Marten Habitat
-  Study Area Boundary
-  Proposed Unit 286 Boundary
-  Adjacent Proposed Units
-  Stream Value Class I
-  Stream Value Class II
-  Stream Value Class III
-  Stream Value Class IV
-  Existing Classified Roads

-  Closed Temporary Roads
-  Proposed Temporary Roads
-  100-ft. Contour Interval

0 660 1320

Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 286	Unit Acres: 10	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-70	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 272 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-102	Volume Strata Acres: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> <div>High 7</div> <div>Medium 3</div> <div>Low</div> <div>Nonforest</div> </div>	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management – clearcut with reserves. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: The temporary road constructed into Unit 274 would be used for access.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Concern: Temporary road construction requires two Class II, one Class III, and one Class IV stream crossing.

Response: Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17. Provide fish passage at Class II stream crossings. Schedule in-stream construction activities between July 18th and August 15th on fish streams.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit contains 7 acres of high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatment meets marten standards and guidelines.

Vegetation

Concern: Leave trees have the potential to be damaged by logging.

Response: Retaining reserve trees in clumps will reduce this potential.

Logging Economics


Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Trees retained to meet marten standards and guidelines will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 288



-  Existing Managed Stands
-  Riparian Management Area
-  High Value Marten Habitat
-  Study Area Boundary
-  Proposed Unit 288 Boundary
-  Adjacent Proposed Units
-  Stream Value Class I
-  Stream Value Class II
-  Stream Value Class III
-  Stream Value Class IV
-  Existing Classified Roads

-  Closed Temporary Roads
-  Proposed Temporary Roads
-  100-ft. Contour Interval



Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 288	Unit Acres: 6	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-167	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 156 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-104	Volume High Strata Medium 6 Acres: Low Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged Management – clearcut. Retain trees for a windfirm buffer (<15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Shovel yarding / One temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

Concern: Stream 1 is Class II, Channel Type MM1.
Stream 2 is Class I, Channel Type LC1.
Stream 3 is Class I, Channel Type FP4.

Response: *Stream 1:* No timber harvest within 120' of stream, or within the greatest of the extent of the floodplain, riparian vegetation or soils, or riparian associated wetland fens.
Stream 2: No timber harvest within 100' of stream, or within a distance to the top of the side slope break, whichever is greater.
Stream 3: No timber harvest within 130' of stream, or within the greatest of the extent of the floodplain, riparian vegetation or soils, or riparian associated wetland fens.
All streams: Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.

Response: Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the outside edge of the Riparian Management Area on both sides of streams 1, 2, and 3.

Concern: Temporary road would be constructed.

Response: Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.

Vegetation

Concern: Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.

Response: Retaining trees in clumps will reduce the potential for windthrow.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wildlife/Biological Diversity, Logging Economics, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 290



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Existing Managed Stands | | Closed Temporary Roads |
| | Riparian Management Area | | Proposed Temporary Roads |
| | High Value Marten Habitat | | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
| | Study Area Boundary | | |
| | Proposed Unit 290 Boundary | | |
| | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
| | Stream Value Class I | | |
| | Stream Value Class II | | |
| | Stream Value Class III | | |
| | Stream Value Class IV | | |
| | Existing Classified Roads | | |

0 660

Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 290	Unit Acres: 28	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-167	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 785 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-105	Volume Strata Acres: High 19 Medium 9 Low Nonforest	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged Management – clearcut. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines (<15% retention).

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Fish Habitat/Watershed

- Concern:** Stream 1 and stream segment 3 are Class IV.
Stream segment 2 is Class II, Channel Type HC2.
Stream 4 is Class III, Channel Type HC5.
- Response:** *Stream 2:* No timber harvest within 100' of stream, or within the v-notch (side slope break), whichever is greater. Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.
Stream 4: No timber harvest within the v-notch (side slope break). Implement BMPs 12.6, 12.6a, 13.9, and 13.16.
Stream 1 and Stream segment 3: Split yard away from stream whenever possible. Implement BMPs 13.16 and 13.9.
- Concern:** Location makes stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.
- Response:** Retain approximately 25 windfirm trees per acre within 100 feet of the outside edge of the Riparian Management Area on both sides of streams 2 and 4.
- Concern:** Temporary road would be constructed.
- Response:** Locate road to minimize sediment delivery to streams. Develop an erosion control plan for temporary road. Provide for adequate drainage of the road surface. Provide for revegetation of soil bared by road construction. Ensure road is decommissioned after completion of harvest. Implement BMPs 12.17, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8, 14.9, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12, 14.20, and 14.22.
- Concern:** Temporary road construction requires two Class II and three Class IV stream crossings.
- Response:** Designate the location where heavy equipment will be allowed to cross streams for construction activities. Minimize the number of times heavy equipment crosses streams. Implement BMPs 14.14 and 14.17.

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

- Concern:** The unit contains 19 acres of high value marten habitat.
- Response:** The proposed harvest treatments meet marten standards and guideline.
- Concern:** A high incidence of deer, moose, squirrel, and bear activity occurs in this unit.
- Response:** Reserve tree patches would provide future old-growth stand characteristics and stand structure.

Vegetation

- Concern:** Location makes this stand susceptible to medium windthrow potential.
- Response:** Retaining reserve trees in clumps will reduce the risk of windthrow.
















Logging Economics

- Concern:** Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.
- Response:** Reserve trees will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Soils, Wetlands

Selected Alternative Unit 298



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Existing Managed Stands |  | Closed Temporary Roads |
|  | Riparian Management Area |  | Proposed Temporary Roads |
|  | High Value Marten Habitat |  | 500-ft. Contour Interval |
|  | Study Area Boundary |  | 100-ft. Contour Interval |
|  | Proposed Unit 298 Boundary | | |
|  | Adjacent Proposed Units | | |
|  | Stream Value Class I | | |
|  | Stream Value Class II | | |
|  | Stream Value Class III | | |
|  | Stream Value Class IV | | |
|  | Existing Classified Roads | | |



Scale is 1 inch = 660 feet

Scott Peak Project Area Selected Alternative Unit Card

Unit Number: 298	Unit Acres: 11	
1999 Aerial Photo: 1698-167	Land Use Designation: Timber Production	Net Timber Volume: 242 mbf
TM-Compartment and Stand: 44439-107	Volume Strata Acres: <div> High 10 Medium 1 Low Nonforest </div>	

Existing Stand Condition: Multiple-cohort stand in the late stages of understory re-initiation.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management – clearcut with reserves. Retain clumps to meet marten standards and guidelines. Retain 30 percent of the original stand structure in ½-acre to 2-acre clumps.

Logging Method/Transportation: Cable yarding / One temporary road

Resource Concerns & Responses

Wildlife/Biological Diversity

Concern: The unit contains 10 acres of high value marten habitat.

Response: The proposed harvest treatments meet marten standards and guidelines.

Concern: A high incidence of deer, moose, squirrel, and bear activity occurs in the unit.

Response: Reserve tree patches would provide future old-growth stand characteristics and stand structure. Retain 30 percent of the original stand structure in ½-acre to 2-acre clumps.

Logging Economics

Concern: Retaining trees within the unit may increase logging costs.

Response: Reserve trees will be retained in clumps to facilitate logging.

No resource concerns for: Recreation, Karst, Scenery, Heritage, Minerals, Fish Habitat/Watershed, Soils, Vegetation, Wetlands

Road Cards



Road Management Objectives

Purpose and Use

The road management objectives (RMOs) presented in this appendix establish the intended purpose and display design, maintenance, and operation criteria (as per FSH 7709.55) for each National Forest System road in the Scott Peak Project Area. The information on the RMO form is part of a permanent database that can be updated periodically as access needs, issues, and budgets change. Proposed new roads and existing roads with planned reconstruction or maintenance have a second section with site specific design criteria that will be used during design, construction, and initial monitoring of any road work proposed in this document. See Figure ROD-3 for a map of the Scott Peak Project Area showing existing road locations.

General Design Criteria

The general design criteria provide various descriptions of the type of road and the intended purpose and future use of the road. From this information, the maintenance and operation criteria can be developed. This information is critical for determining whether a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's permit will be required for segments of road crossing wetlands. Roads built solely for silvicultural purposes do not require these permits.

Maintenance Criteria

The maintenance criteria include a discussion of how the road is to be maintained, centering on three strategies:

- **Active:** provide frequent cleanout of ditches and catch basins to assure controlled drainage. Control roadside brush to maintain sight distance. Grade as needed to maintain crown and running surface.
- **Storm Proof:** provide water bars, rolling dips, out sloping, etc., to assure controlled runoff until any needed maintenance can be performed on the primary drainage system. Control roadside brush to maintain passage.
- **Storage:** remove or bypass all drainage structures to restore natural drainage patterns, add water bars as needed to control runoff, revegetate.

The **active** maintenance strategy is applied to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. These roads are assigned Maintenance Level 3. The active maintenance strategy will also at times be applied to roads intended only for use by high clearance vehicles, or Maintenance Level 2 roads. This will usually be the case when log haul is expected in the near future.

An intermediate maintenance strategy is to **storm proof**, or stabilize, the road by providing roadway features such as drivable water bars and out sloping to control runoff in case the primary drainage system of culverts and ditches is overwhelmed during a storm event. Each culvert will be evaluated as to where the water would go if the culvert were to fail to carry the high flow. A water bar or out slope at this location will minimize

Unit and Road Cards

the potential for erosion of long stretches of ditch line or roadway. This is intended to be the primary maintenance strategy applied to roads assigned Maintenance Level 2.

Storage is intended to be the primary maintenance strategy on intermittent use roads during their closure cycle. Road storage is defined in FSH 5409.17 as "the process/action of closing a road to vehicle traffic and placing it in a condition that requires minimum maintenance to protect the environment and preserve the facility for future use." In this strategy, the bridges and culverts on live streams are completely removed to restore natural drainage patterns. Cross drains and ditch relief culverts will be bypassed with deep water bars but may be left in place to minimize the cost of re-using these roads in the future. Roads in storage are left in a self-maintaining state in order to use more road maintenance funds on the open drivable roads on the island. Maintenance Level 1, closure and basic custodial maintenance, is assigned.

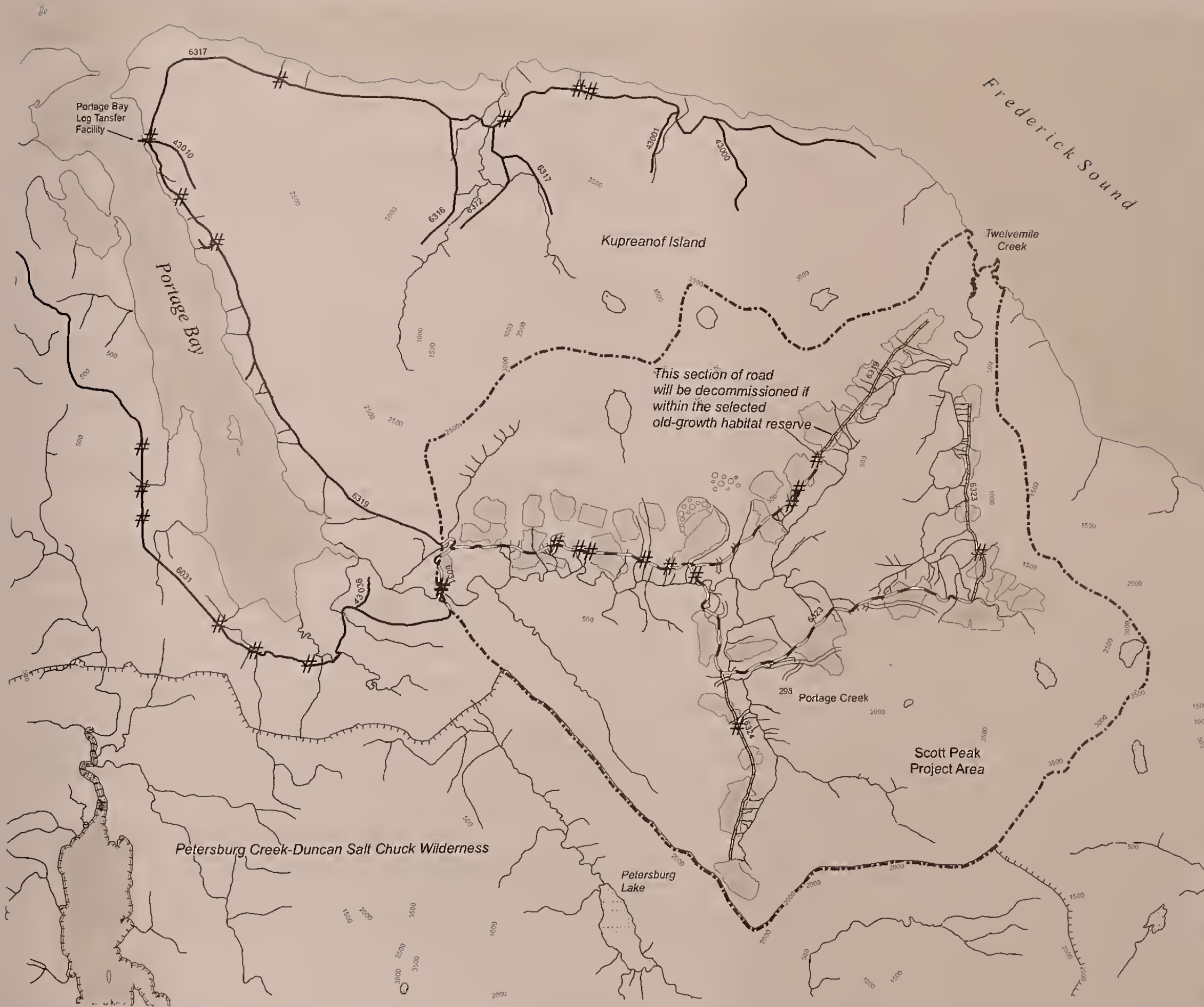
The interdisciplinary team went through a process to define road management considerations, leading to a maintenance strategy to be applied to each road in the Scott Peak Project Area. Figure ROD-3 shows the desired future condition of each road in the project area as a result of the process. The work needed to meet the objectives can be accomplished on the roads along the haul route in these timber sales. Work needed on other roads to meet the desired objective will be scheduled as funding allows.

Operation Criteria

The operation criteria include a presentation of each of the five traffic management strategies identified in FSM 7731 (encourage, accept, discourage, prohibit, and eliminate) to be applied to different traffic classes on each road. The traffic management narrative describes what actions will be taken in order to apply each strategy. For example, if the strategy "eliminate" is prescribed for standard passenger and high clearance vehicles, the narrative describes the method to accomplish this, such as removal of stream crossing structures, gating, etc.

Site-specific Design Criteria

The site-specific design criteria include road location objectives, wetland information, erosion control, proposed rock borrow sources, and all streams within the project area with proposed construction or rehabilitation of stream crossing structures.



Scott Peak Project Area

ROD-3

Road Maintenance Levels

- Legend**
- Managed Stands
 - Lakes/Salt Water
 - Project Area Boundary
 - 500ft Contour Interval
 - Streams
 - Wilderness Boundary
 - Storage (Closed)
 - Roads Outside of Project Area
 - High Clearance Vehicles
 - # Fish Passage Concerns
 - Temporary Roads
(Will be decommissioned after harvest)



Glossary for RMO Form Values

Project	The name of the project or NEPA document that addresses the environmental impacts of this road.
Land Use Designation	TP = Timber Production.
Route Number	Normally only long-term Forest Development Roads are assigned road numbers.
Route Name	All long-term roads assigned numbers will be given names.
Termini	The beginning and ending location of the road, measured between mileposts (MP).
Length (miles)	Best estimate of the length of the road, in miles.
Functional Class	Arterial (A) = primary; Collector (C) = secondary; or Local (L) = tertiary.
Service Life	Short-term (less than 10 years) or Long-term. Long-term used in conjunction with Entry Cycle to be Long-term Constant (LC) or Long-term Intermittent (LI).
Width (ft)	Travelway width of road. Normal values are 14 ft and 16 ft.
Design Speed (mph)	10, 20 or 30 mph.
Critical Vehicle	The largest vehicle (by weight, size, or unique shape) whose limited use on the road is necessary to complete the planned activity.
Design Vehicle	The vehicle frequently using the road that determines the minimum standard for a particular design element – passenger car, pick-up, logging truck, lowboy, rock truck, or yarding equipment.
Intended Purpose	Brief description of why this road is needed.
Maintenance Levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational (Current Condition) • Objective (Desired Future Condition) 	Levels 1-5 Level 1 – Closed, basic drainage maintenance Level 2 – High Clearance Vehicles Level 3 – All Vehicles, low user comfort Level 4 – All Vehicles, moderate user comfort Level 5 – All Vehicles, high user comfort
Alaska Forest Practices Act	Road status as specified by the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations, 1993; either Active, Inactive, or Closed.
Highway Safety Act	Road open to general public without restrictive gates, prohibitive signs, or regulation other than restrictions based on size, weight, or class of registration; Yes or No.
Travel Management Strategy	Several values apply; see the Travelway Classification/Operation Guide. Lists classes of traffic which will be encouraged, accepted, discouraged, prohibited, or eliminated.

Road Management Objective

Project Scott Peak		System Portage		Land Use Designation TP	
Route No. 6319	Route Name Goose Creek	Begin Termini MP 0.00 LTF		End Termini MP 13.06	
Begin MP 0.0	Length 13.06	Status Existing	Map Quarter Quad PSG D4	Photo year, roll, photos	

General Design Criteria and Elements

Functional Class	Service Life	Surface	Width	Design Speed	Critical Vehicle	Design Vehicle
Local (MP 0.0 – MP 4.36)	LC	Shot rock	16'	20	Lowboy Trailer	Logging Truck
Local (MP 4.36 - End)	LC	Shot rock	14'	10	Lowboy Trailer	Logging Truck

Intended Purpose/Future Use

Silvicultural purposes, general forest management and administration. Road will remain open to standard passenger vehicles to MP 4.36. Beyond this point the road will be open to high clearance vehicles to MP 11.05. Beyond this point the road will be decommissioned.

Maintenance Criteria

Bmp	Emp	Operational Maintenance Level (Current Condition)	Objective Maintenance Level (Desired Future Condition)	Alaska Forest Practices Act
0.00	4.36	3	3	Active
4.36	11.05	2	2	Active
11.05	13.06	1	Decommissioned	Closed

Maintenance Narrative

Active: Provide frequent cleanout of ditches and catch basins to assure controlled drainage. Control roadside brush, grade as needed to maintain crown and running surface.

Decommissioned: (past MP 11.05) remove drainage structures to restore natural drainage patterns, add water bars as needed to control runoff, revegetate. After decommissioning, the road will be removed from the Forest transportation system.

Operation Criteria

Highway Safety Act:	No	Jurisdiction:	National Forest Ownership
Travel Management Strategies	Encourage:		
	Accept:	(MP 0.0 – MP 4.36) All Vehicles	
		(MP 4.36 – 11.05) High Clearance Vehicles	
		(MP 11.05 – End) Hikers	
	Discourage:	(MP 11.05 – End) Motorized Vehicles	
	Prohibit:	N/A	
	Eliminate:	(MP 11.05 – End) All Vehicles	

Travel Management Narrative

This is the main road connected to the LTF and leading out of the Portage Bay camp area. The road receives use by residents of the Portage Bay logging camp when active and by some hunters during the hunting season. The bridge is removed at MP 11.05 and the road is in storage to the end.

Approved

District Ranger

Date

Road Management Objectives

Site Specific Design Criteria Road 6319

EROSION CONTROL: An erosion control plan for construction and maintenance will be developed by the contractor and approved by the Contracting Officer (BMP 14.5). All areas of organic or mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (BMP 12.17, 14.8).

ROCK PITS: During periods of high rainfall (as defined in current Regional specifications), blasting operations will be suspended at quarries near potentially unstable sites where ground vibration may induce mass movement (BMP 14.6).

STREAM CROSSINGS: There are 16 sites that were identified in the road condition survey where fish passage was identified as a concern. Two of these sites have been repaired. Repairs on the other sites will be scheduled pending further evaluation. There are three fish stream crossing structures that will be removed. Removal of these structures will have timing restrictions (BMP 14.6) as follows: Class II: construction between July 18 & August 15 for cutthroat, Class II Dolly Varden: no timing window. (BMP 14.14, 14.15, 14.17).

Existing Stream Crossings		
Road #	Mile Post	Existing CMP Diameter
6319	0.872	48
6319	0.922	18
6319	1.117	36
6319	1.521	72
6319	4.418	42
6319	6.057	90
6319	6.855	18
6319	7.383	24
6319	7.642	48
6319	7.736	24
6319	7.778	36
6319	8.709	36
6319	8.917	18
6319	10.379	36
6319	10.571	36
6319	10.773	24

Structures to be removed	
Mile Post	Stream Class
11.052	II
11.440	II
12.037	II

Road Management Objective

Project		System		Land Use Designation	
Scott Peak		Portage		TP	
Route No.	Route Name	Begin Termini		End Termini	
6323	Missionary Mountain	MP 8.92 Rd.6319		MP 7.06	
Begin MP	Length	Status	Map Quarter Quad	Photo year, roll, photos	
0.0	7.06	Existing	PSG D4		

General Design Criteria and Elements

Functional Class	Service Life	Surface	Width	Design Speed	Critical Vehicle	Design Vehicle
Local	LC	Shot rock	14'	10	Logging truck	Logging Truck

Intended Purpose/Future Use

Silvicultural purposes, general forest management and administration. Road will remain open to high clearance vehicles to MP 4.69. Road will be placed in storage after timber harvest to reduce maintenance needs after MP 4.69.

Maintenance Criteria

Bmp	Emp	Operational Maintenance Level (Current Condition)	Objective Maintenance Level (Desired Future Condition)	Alaska Forest Practices Act
0.00	4.69	2	2	Active
4.69	7.06	1	1	Closed

Maintenance Narrative

Active: Provide frequent cleanout of ditches and catch basins to assure controlled drainage. Control roadside brush, grade as needed to maintain crown and running surface.

Storage: (past MP 7.06) remove drainage structures to restore natural drainage patterns, add water bars as needed to control runoff, revegetate.

Operation Criteria

Highway Safety Act:	No	Jurisdiction:	National Forest Ownership
Travel Management Strategies	Encourage:	N/A	
	Accept:	(MP 0.0 – MP 4.69) High Clearance Vehicle (MP 4.69 – End) Hikers	
	Discourage:	(MP 4.69 – End) Motorized Vehicles	
	Prohibit:	N/A	
	Eliminate:	(MP 4.69 – End) Standard Passenger & High Clearance	

Travel Management Narrative

The road is used by residents of the Portage Bay logging camp when active and by some hunters during the hunting season. The bridge is out at MP 4.69 and the road is in storage to the end.

Approved


District Ranger


Date

9.20.06

Road Management Objectives

Site Specific Design Criteria Road 6323

EROSION CONTROL: An erosion control plan for construction and maintenance will be developed by the contractor and approved by the Contracting Officer (BMP 14.5). All areas of organic or mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (BMP 12.17, 14.8).

ROCK PITS: During periods of high rainfall (as defined in current Regional specifications), blasting operations will be suspended at quarries near potentially unstable sites where ground vibration may induce mass movement (BMP 14.6).

STREAM CROSSINGS: There are 6 sites that were identified in the road condition survey where fish passage was identified as a concern. One site has been repaired. The other sites will be scheduled for repairs pending further evaluation. There are two fish stream crossings that will be reinstalled. Construction of these crossings will have timing restrictions (BMP 14.6) as follows: Class I: construction between June 1 & September 15 for coho, June 1 & August 1 for both coho and pink salmon. Class II: construction between July 18 & August 15 for cutthroat, Class II Dolly Varden: no timing window. (BMP 14.14, 14.15, 14.17).

Existing Stream Crossings		
Road #	Mile Post	Existing CMP Diameter
6323	2.330	48
6323	2.729	48
6323	3.019	60
6323	3.600	24
6323	4.530	24
6323	4.646	24

Reconstruction	
Mile Post	Stream Class
4.693	I
5.294	II





FEIS

Errata and Summary

Preface

The Forest Service published the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Scott Peak Project Area in December, 2005. The information and analysis found in the Final EIS was subject to review during the appeal of the Record of Decision signed November 25, 2005. The decision was reversed because of questions about the adequacy of the cumulative effects analysis. A review of the analysis was conducted and documented in a supplemental information report. The review confirmed that the analysis of environmental effects presented in the Final EIS is not significantly different. This information is presented in the following errata.

The summary of the Final EIS follows the errata. This is the original summary which was published with the November 2005 Record of Decision. Copies of the complete Final EIS can be obtained from the Petersburg Ranger District.

Errata

Scott Peak Project Area Final Environmental Impact Statement

Chapter 1 -

1-5 Replace the subheading “Prior Management of the Area” with “Prior Management Within and Adjacent to the Project Area”

1-8 Move the entire section “Possible Future Projects Within or Adjacent to the Scott Peak Project Area” to pg. 3-3 and insert after the “Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects” section.

1-16 Add the following subheadings and paragraphs after “Publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement”:

Final EIS and 2005 Record of Decision: The Scott Peak Project Area Final EIS Notice of Availability was published in the Federal register on January 20, 2006, after the Record of Decision was signed. A public notice, which started the 45-day appeal period, was placed in the *Juneau Empire*, the newspaper of record, on January 16, 2006. Two appeals were filed. On April 14, 2006 the Appeal Deciding Officer (ADO) reversed the decision of the Forest Supervisor.

Supplemental Information Report: A supplemental information report was prepared to summarize the additional analysis completed and disclose whether it was necessary to correct, revise, or supplement the existing FEIS. This review was limited in nature to the following points raised in Appeal No. 06-10-00-0005 of the Scott Peak Record of Decision.

1. The potential cumulative effects from reasonably foreseeable future activities associated with unsold Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale EIS and Todahl Backline EA units and the associated road reconstruction were not adequately addressed in the Scott Peak FEIS or planning record.
2. Other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects that may have potential cumulative effects in conjunction with the Scott Peak project.

1-17 In the last paragraph, change the second sentence to read: “The old-growth forest habitat within the analysis area occurs in a landscape pattern of naturally-fragmented old-growth forest, muskeg, and forested wetlands.”

1-17 In the last paragraph, change the fourth sentence to read: “This Old-growth Habitat fragmentation, combined with the proposed harvest for this project and the reasonably foreseeable future projects, may have adverse effects on old-growth associated species.”

FEIS Errata

1-18 In the first paragraph, add the following sentences at the beginning of the first paragraph under the “Units of Measure” section:

Historically within the analysis area, there were 38 patches totaling 23,710 acres, including one large patch of 22,976 acres of interior forest (FEIS pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1). These 38 patches are the area of analysis for cumulative and direct effects on interior Old-growth Habitat since any new activities would further fragment the historic patch. This area includes portions of VCUs 442, 443, 445, and 446.

Chapter 2 -

2-12 Table 2-2 – replace row 18 “Acres of high value deer habitat remaining after harvest” with the following:

Acres of high value deer habitat remaining after harvest in the Project Area	1,423	1,247	1,334	1,356	1,423	1,377	1,342
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

2-13 Table 2-2 (continued) – replace Row 8 “Cumulative timber harvest acres - % of Portage Creek watershed” with the following:

Cumulative timber harvest acres - % of Portage Creek watershed ¹	9.6	11.4	10.8	10.7	10.0	10.2	10.9
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	------	------	------	------	------	------

Replace Row 16 “Effects on subsistence” with following row:

Deer available to Subsistence users after cumulative analysis	1,117	1,098	1,105	1,108	1,116	1,112	1,106
---------------------------------------------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

2-14 In the last paragraph, replace the first sentence with the following two sentences:

Historically within the analysis area, there were 38 patches totaling 23,710 acres, including one large patch of 22,976 acres of interior forest (FEIS pg. 3-23 Figure 3-1). These 38 patches are the area of analysis for cumulative and direct effects on interior Old-growth Habitat since any new activities would further fragment the historic patch. This area includes portions of VCUs 442, 443, 445, and 446.

¹ Cumulative acres harvested in watershed have changed from the FEIS.

Chapter 3 -

3-1 In the fourth paragraph, insert the following sentences and Table after the first sentence and delete the last sentence:

The area of analysis varies between resources. Table 3-0 below shows the area of analysis for each resource and the rationale for its selection.

Table 3-0
Cumulative Effects Analysis Areas for resources

Resource or Issue Indicator	Cumulative Effects Analysis Area	Rationale for Cumulative Effects Area
Interior Old-growth Habitat patches	Historic patch that includes VCU 444 and parts of VCUs 442, 443, 445, and 446 (Scott FEIS pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1)	Any new activities would further fragment the historic patch.
Deer habitat capability for subsistence use	Wildlife Analysis Area (WAA) 5136	At this scale, habitat requirements of deer are met, comparisons with Forest Plan predictions for end of rotation conditions within the WAA can be made, and the Memorandum of Understanding (ACMP MOU 2000) with the State of Alaska for deer data on a WAA level is met.
Deer habitat capability to provide for wolves	The Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province	Wolves have large home ranges that include several Wildlife Analysis Areas (WAAs), (Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Implementation Policy Clarification, 1998).
Watershed Analysis & Fisheries	Portage Creek and Twelvemile Creek Watersheds	The watershed boundaries are large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect either creek. At the same time, the watershed boundaries are small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.
Recreation	The Project Area (VCU 444) and VCU 442 to the north and west	VCU 442 is included because Portage Bay LTF is the access point for roaded recreation in the Project Area and includes the Portage Bay road system.
Transportation	The area for the analysis encompasses VCUs 424, 442, 443, and 444	Includes the present road system in the Portage Bay area and Portage Bay LTF.
Timber Economics	VCUs 442 and 444	Future harvest will only affect the timber economics of these VCUs which include the Project Area and the road system to the LTF.
Heritage	VCUs 444 and 446	Analysis is based on the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The APE for the Scott Peak Project coincides with the boundaries of Value Comparison Units 444 and 446.
Socioeconomics	Nearby communities (Petersburg, Kake and Wrangell)	Analysis is at the community level because of the inter-related aspect of communities and economics (see pg. 3-525, Forest Plan FEIS, part 2)

FEIS Errata

Cumulative Effects Analysis Areas for resources (continued)

Resource or Issue Indicator	Cumulative Effects Analysis Area	Rationale for Cumulative Effects Area
Scenery	Priority viewing area -Areas visible from the visual priority travel routes and use areas associated with the Scott Peak Project Area.	Scenery is based on the amount of land area that can be viewed at one time from a particular location.
Roadless Areas	Scott Peak Project Area	The Scott Peak Project does not contribute to the cumulative effect of harvest or road building to Roadless Areas.
Wetlands	Scott Peak Project Area	It is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect this area but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.
Soils	Scott Peak Project Area	It is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect this area but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.
TES	Scott Peak Project Area	It is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect this area but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.
Other Wildlife resources – POG, coarse canopy, corridors, deer habitat capability.	Scott Peak Project Area	It is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect this area but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.

3-2 In the second paragraph, add the following sentence after the second sentence:

VCU boundaries generally, but not always, follow major watershed boundaries.

3-2 In the third paragraph, add the following sentence after the last sentence:

The Wrangell Narrows Metasediments Ecological Subsection was used to determine the HSI value for the deer habitat capability model.

3-2 In the fourth paragraph, make the following changes:

Change the first sentence to read:

This designation refers to 21 biogeographic provinces of Southeast Alaska that were identified by the Forest Plan as generally having distinct ecological, physiographic, and biogeographic features.

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

The Kupreanof/Mitkof Island Biogeographic Province was used to analyze the deer habitat capability to provide for wolves and was used as one measure of road density.

3-3 Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects section - Add the following statement at the end of the paragraph:

The projects used for cumulative effects are listed in the project record in the Catalog of Activities, in the Supplemental Information Report, and in the resource reports for the Supplemental Information Report.

3-4 Change the subheading “Possible Future Projects Within or Adjacent to the Scott Peak Project Area” to “Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects Within or Adjacent to the Scott Peak Project Area” and move from pg. 1-8 to here.

3-4 Insert the following paragraph at the end of the “Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects Within or Adjacent to the Scott Peak Project Area” section:

The reasonably foreseeable future projects on Kupreanof Island are unharvested units from the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale FEIS, Todahl Backline EA, and Shamrock Timber Sale(s) EIS. These units are not currently under a timber sale contract, but they could be sold and harvested in the reasonably foreseeable future. The Forest Supervisor will approve any changes to the decisions prior to implementation. Todahl Backline EA is located in VCU 443, and Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale FEIS is located in VCUs 442 and 424. These two VCUs are adjacent to the Scott Peak Project Area. All of Todahl Backline EA and part of Bohemia Mountain EIS are within WAA 5136. All three projects, including Shamrock timber Sale(s), are within the Kurpreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province.

Within the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province, other reasonably foreseeable future projects are the Woodpecker and Overlook timbers sales on Mitkof Island and the Bohemia Mountain, Todahl Backline and Shamrock timber sales on Kupreanof Island. These potential future harvest acres were included in the cumulative effects analysis in the FEIS.

3-17 In the third paragraph, replace first sentence with the following:

The Scott Peak Project Area analysis addresses this issue by comparing the effects of past harvest, the alternatives, and reasonably foreseeable future projects on the amount of productive old-growth in the Project Area, and on the amount, distribution and quality of the interior Old-growth Habitat patches in the analysis areas as described in the Area of Analysis section.

3-17 Following the third paragraph, insert a new subheading “Area of Analysis” and add the following:

Historically within the analysis area, there were 38 Interior Old-growth Habitat patches totaling 23,710 acres, including one large patch of 22,976 acres of interior forest (FEIS pg. 3-23 Figure 3-1). These 38 patches are the area of analysis for cumulative and direct effects on interior Old-growth Habitat since any new

FEIS Errata

activities would further fragment the historic patches. This area includes portions of VCUs 442, 443, 445, and 446.

3-28 Replace the first paragraph with the following:

When the patches from the area of analysis (the historic large patch which included much of the planning area and portions of VCUs 442 and 443) are considered, the results show that the direct effects of the action alternatives would reduce interior Old-growth Habitat patch acres by less than one percent for Alternative F and up to four percent for Alternative B (Table 3-13). Cumulative harvest from the past, present (Alt A), and foreseeable activities would reduce interior old-growth from its historic condition from between 41 percent for Alternative A to 44 percent for Alternative B.

Table 3-13 – Replace Table 3-13 with the following table which includes cumulative effects.

Table 3-13

Estimated Change in Acres of Interior Old-growth Habitat Patches that are Partially or Wholly within the Scott Peak Project Area by Alternative

Historic (1954) Condition 23,710 acres	Alternative					
	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F
Direct change to Interior Old-growth Habitat acres in all patches remaining after harvest	14,258	13,704	13,980	14,067	14,075	14,135
Percent change from present condition	0%	-4%	-2%	-1%	-1%	<1%
Cumulative change in Interior Old-growth Habitat acres in all patches	13,905	13,351	13,627	13,714	13,722	13,782
Percent change from historic (1954) condition	-41%	-44%	-43%	-42%	-42%	-42%

3-28 In paragraph two, replace the first sentence with:

The five key characteristics used to identify high value interior Old-growth Habitat patches in the analysis area are:

3-29 In the Key Patch Descriptions section, replace first sentence with:

Eight key interior Old-growth Habitat patches were identified in the analysis area.

3-33 In paragraph three, delete the words “in the project area” in the first sentence.

3-34 and 3-35 Under “Cumulative Effects”, replace entire section with:

Within the Project Area (VCU 444) approximately 15 percent of the original productive Old-growth Habitat has been harvested. Implementation of this alternative would not further reduce productive old-growth and there is no reasonably foreseeable future harvest planned within the Project Area; therefore the cumulative acres of POG is not expected to change with this alternative.

Within the areas of the historic patch (shown on pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1) there is nearly twice as many old-growth patches than existed historically, and the average patch size is 71 percent smaller. The proposed activities, combined with the harvest of the reasonably foreseeable Todahl Backline units, would further reduce the acres of interior old-growth patches by one percent for a total loss of 41 percent of historic interior old-growth.

3-36 Under “Alternative B Cumulative Effects”, replace entire section with:

Within the Project Area the proposed harvest in Alternative B, when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities, would result in a cumulative reduction of approximately 20 percent of the historic productive Old-growth Habitat.

Within the areas of the historic patch (shown on pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1), the proposed harvest in Alternative B, when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities, would result in a cumulative reduction interior Old-growth Habitat of approximately 44 percent.

3-38 Under “Alternative C Cumulative Effects”, replace entire section with:

Within the Project Area, the proposed harvest in Alternative C, when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities, would result in a cumulative reduction of approximately 18 percent of the historic productive Old-growth Habitat.

Within the areas of the historic patch (shown on pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1), the proposed harvest in Alternative C, when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities, would result in an approximate cumulative reduction of approximately 43 percent.

3-39 Under “Alternative D Cumulative Effects”, replace entire section with:

Within the Project Area, the proposed harvest in Alternative D, when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities, would result in a cumulative reduction of approximately 17 percent of the historic productive Old-growth Habitat.

Within the areas of the historic patch (shown on pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1), the proposed harvest in Alternative D, when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities, would result in a cumulative reduction interior Old-growth Habitat of approximately 42 percent.

FEIS Errata

3-39 Under “Alternative E Cumulative Effects”, replace entire section with:

Within the Project Area the proposed harvest in Alternative E when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities would result in a cumulative reduction of approximately 16 percent of the historic productive Old-growth Habitat.

Within the areas of the historic patch (shown on pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1) the proposed harvest in Alternative E when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities would result in a cumulative reduction interior Old-growth Habitat of approximately 42 percent.

3-40 Under “Alternative F Cumulative Effects”, replace entire section with:

Within the Project Area the proposed harvest in Alternative F when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities would result in a cumulative reduction of approximately 16 percent of the historic productive Old-growth Habitat.

Within the areas of the historic patch (shown on pg. 3-23, Figure 3-1) the proposed harvest in Alternative B when combined with previous and reasonably foreseeable future timber harvest activities would result in a cumulative reduction interior Old-growth Habitat of approximately 42 percent.

3-64 Following the first paragraph, insert a new heading “Area of Analysis” and the following:

Deer Habitat Capability to Provide for Wolves and Road density

Wolves have home ranges that include several WAAs; therefore, the scale applied to the deer habitat model to determine deer prey availability was the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province (TPIT 1998, pg. 16). This province includes Kupreanof, Mitkof, Woewodski, and several other small islands including the Level Islands. Figure 3-1 in Forest Plan FEIS, Part 1 (pg. 3-17) shows the Biogeographic Provinces of Southeast Alaska.

3-64 In paragraph three, add the following sentence after the first sentence:

The estimated deer habitat capability in the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic Province, considering all present and reasonably foreseeable projects would be approximately 22.2 deer per square mile, which is still above the recommendation.

3-64 In paragraph four, replace the fifth sentence with the following statement:

Road density for all roads below 1,200 feet in elevation within the Kupreanof/Mitkof Biogeographic province is 0.44 miles per square mile, well below the 0.7 miles per square mile threshold. The cumulative road density when combined with the action alternatives, current densities, and reasonably foreseeable future road construction varies between 0.45 for the No Action Alternative to 0.456 for Alternative B, well below the 0.7 mile per square mile threshold.

3-69 Under “Coarse Canopy Old-growth Habitat”, add the following in front of the first paragraph:

The area of analysis is the Scott Peak Project Area. It is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect Coarse Canopy but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities. There are no reasonably foreseeable future activities within the Project Area.

3-76 Under “Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife Species”, insert the new subsection “Area of Analysis” in front of the “Queen Charlotte Goshawk” section and include the following statement:

The area of analysis for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife species is the Scott Peak Project Area. This area is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect this area but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities. Also, the Project Area is a complete VCU which is the scale at which the Forest Plan projects harvest level risk to goshawks.

3-79 Under “Cumulative Effects”, add following statement before the first paragraph:

Within the Scott Peak Project Area, harvest of the proposed alternatives when combined with previous timber harvest (there is no reasonably foreseeable future activities currently planned) would not affect any threatened or endangered species and would not impact any sensitive species other than the Northern Goshawk. The proposed activities may impact individual Northern Goshawks but they are not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability to this species.

3-80 Under “Biodiversity”, insert the new subsection “Area of Analysis” in front of the “Habitat Types in the Scott Peak Project Area” subsection and include the following:

The area of analysis for biodiversity is the Scott Peak Project Area. This area is large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect this area but is small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities. This is also the area of analysis (VCU) that the Forest Plan Appendix K used for small old-growth reserve evaluation.

3-115 Under “Watersheds and Fisheries”, insert the new subsection “Area of Analysis” following the Introduction and include the following statement.

The analysis area for hydrology includes the Portage Creek and Twelvemile Creek Watersheds. Each watershed is a topographically delineated catchment in which all surface water drains to a single stream. The downstream boundary for both the Portage Creek Watershed and the Twelvemile Creek Watershed is sea level. The watersheds correspond to the 6th level Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) recognized by the US Geological Survey. The watershed boundaries are large enough to allow a comprehensive accounting of all activities that may affect either Portage Creek or Twelvemile Creek. At the same time, the watershed

FEIS Errata

boundaries are small enough to allow the analysis to be sensitive to the potential effects of the proposed activities.

3-126 Under “Cumulative Watershed Analysis”, replace Table 3-45 with the following table:

Table 3-45

Cumulative Existing and Proposed Harvest Acreage as a Percentage of Watershed Area by Watershed and Alternative

Major watershed	Cumulative percent of watershed harvested in Project Area ¹					
	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F
Portage Creek	9.6	11.4	10.8	10.9	10.7	10.0
Twelvemile Creek	10.7	15.3	12.7	11.5	11.4	11.2

¹ Cumulative percent includes lands cleared for roads, assuming a clearing width of 35ft

3-131 Under “Definition of cumulative watershed effects”, replace the first sentence with the following:

Cumulative watershed effects include environmental effects associated with all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities occurring within a watershed.

3-131 Following “Definition of cumulative watershed effects”, insert the following subsections:

Past Activities

The Scott Peak Watershed Resources Report considers all timber harvest and road building activities that have occurred within the Portage Creek and Twelvemile Creek Watersheds.

Present Activities

There are no present activities that are expected to affect the Portage Creek and Twelvemile Creek Watersheds.

3-131 Change “Reasonably foreseeable activities to “Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities” and replace the first two sentences with the following statement:

There is no foreseeable timber harvest or road building that would occur in the Twelvemile Creek Watershed besides what is proposed in the Scott Peak Timber Sale. Within the Portage Creek Watershed there is one harvest unit originally considered in the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale (unit 537B) that may be logged in the future. Unit 537B is 31 acres and would require that 1891 feet of temporary road be built. These activities would increase cumulative harvest levels in the Portage Creek Watershed by about 0.2 percent of the total watershed

area; however, under all alternatives cumulative harvest levels would remain below 12 percent in the Portage Creek Watershed (Table 3-45).

3-131 Under “Alternative A”, replace the first paragraph with the following:

With the No Action Alternative, cumulative effects would be limited to those associated with the maintenance of existing roads, the growth of trees in managed stands that have been harvested in the past, and reasonably foreseeable future activities. The harvest of the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale (Unit 537B) would increase harvest levels in the Portage Creek Watershed by 0.2 percent from the current level to a cumulative harvest level of 9.6 percent. Under this alternative, no changes in water yield, water quality, sediment delivery to streams, or fish passage are expected beyond those associated with naturally-occurring events.

3-132 Under “All Action Alternatives”, replace the first sentence of the second paragraph with the following:

The maximum proposed harvest (Alternative B, approximately 634 acres) when combined with previous timber harvest, and reasonably foreseeable future activities will bring the cumulative harvest levels (including roads) to 11.4 percent of the area in the Portage Watershed, and 15.3 percent of the area within the Twelvemile Watershed.

3-137 Under “Soils and Geology”, add the “Area of Analysis” subheading after paragraph one and include the following:

The boundary area selected to determine the area of analysis for the soils and geology lies within and is specific to VCU 444. This area is defined as the Project Area boundary because VCUs 443, 445, and 446 are topographically separated from VCU 444 and units proposed for harvest in VCU 444 are spatially separated from previously managed units in VCU 442.

3-142 Under “Cumulative Effects”, replace the first paragraph with the following:

Within the Scott Peak Project Area, the effect of the proposed alternatives on long-term soil productivity, when combined with previous timber harvest (there are no reasonably foreseeable future activities currently planned), is directly related to the amount of soil disturbance and recovery that takes place in the soil system over time. Soil cohesion has had at least 10 years to become re-established since the last activity in the Project Area (1996). A loss in soil productivity and erosion is expected from this project, where road construction and logging remove organic matter, until revegetation occurs. Revegetation in these areas, expected within three to five years following harvest, will help to minimize impacts as root systems from newly vegetated plant matter aid soil cohesion.

3-144 Under “Wetlands”, add the subsection “Area of Analysis” subheading after the first paragraph and include the following:

The boundary area selected to determine the area of analysis for wetlands lies within and is specific to VCU 444. This area is defined as the Project Area

FEIS Errata

boundary because VCUs 443, 445, and 446 are topographically separated from VCU 444 and units proposed for harvest in VCU 444 are spatially separated from previously managed units in VCU 442.

3-147 Under “Cumulative Effects”, insert the following after the second sentence:

There are no reasonably foreseeable future activities currently planned within the Scott Peak Project Area.

3-148 Under “Transportation”, add the subheading “Area of Analysis” after the Introduction, and include the following:

The analysis area for transportation encompasses VCUs 424, 442, 443, and 444. These VCUs were selected as the analysis area because they encompass all of the Portage Bay road system on Kupreanof Island.

3-154 Following paragraph five, insert the following:

The remaining units from the Bohemia Mountain EIS and Todahl Backline EA are planned for sale in 2007. The units for Todahl Backline are planned for helicopter logging and no additional roads are required. The Bohemia Timber Sale includes the construction of 1,891 feet of temporary roads to access the timber. These roads are slated for decommissioning after timber harvest. Decommissioning will involve blocking the temporary road entrance to eliminate motor vehicles, removing all culverts and stream structures, and placing waterbars approximately every 300 feet to divert water off of the road surface.

3-156 Insert new the subheading “Area of Analysis”, after the fourth paragraph and include the following paragraph:

The analysis area for subsistence is Wildlife Analysis Area (WAA) 5136 of which the Scott Peak Project Area makes up approximately 40%. At the WAA scale, habitat requirements of deer are met, comparisons with Forest Plan predictions for end of rotation conditions within the WAA can be made, and the Memorandum of Understanding (ACMP MOU 2000) with the State of Alaska for deer data on a WAA level is met.

3-162 Replace Table 3-55 with the following table:

Table 3-55
Estimated Number of Deer Available to Hunters after the Proposed Timber Harvest in WAA 5136 by Alternative

Historic number available 1,258 deer	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F
Deer available to hunters after proposed harvest	1,118	1,099	1,106	1,110	1,117	1,113
Cumulative Effects Including Past, Proposed, and Foreseeable Future Actions	1,117	1,098	1,105	1,108	1,116	1,112
Cumulative change from historic condition by percentage	11.2%	12.7%	12.2%	11.9%	11.3%	11.6%

3-170 Replace the first two paragraphs with the following:

The subsistence analysis evaluates whether the project, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, may significantly restrict subsistence uses. Reasonably foreseeable future actions identified in WAA 5136 include the remaining units from the Todahl Backline EA and the Bohemia Mountain Timber Sale FEIS.

The analysis for WAA 5136 indicates that for any action alternative, the proposed timber harvest, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions will not likely result in a significant restriction on subsistence use of resources.

3-170 At the end of paragraph five, add the following:

The maximum proposed harvest (Alternative B, approximately 634 acres) when combined with previous timber harvest, and reasonably foreseeable future activities will reduce the huntable deer population to 1,098 in WAA 5136.

3-174 Replace the first sentence in paragraph two with the following:

Based on the habitat modeling and subsistence deer harvest reported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Federal Subsistence Program, and the Forest Plan, the proposed activities when combined with past and reasonably foreseeable future actions are not expected to result in a significant restriction on

FEIS Errata

subsistence uses of deer, black bear, furbearers, moose, marine mammals, waterfowl, salmon, other finfish, free-use timber, shellfish or other foods.

3-175 Add the subheading “Area of Analysis”, after the third paragraph and include the following:

The analysis area for Socioeconomics is at the community level due to the inter-related aspect of communities and economics. The area analyzed is the Scott Peak Project Area, which coincides with the boundaries of Value Comparison Unit 444.

3-185 Under “Cumulative Effects”, replace the first sentence with the following:

Currently the use of the Project Area centers on timber harvest, hunting, and recreation. The proposed activities when combined with past activities continue the current trends. At this time there is no reasonably foreseeable future harvest activities planned.

3-198 In paragraph two, add the word “reasonably” in front of foreseeable future in the first sentence.

3-199 Under “Recreation”, add subheading “Area of Analysis” after the “Introduction” and include the following:

The area used to analyze recreation cumulative effects was the Project Area (VCU 444) plus VCU 442 to the west, including Portage Bay and the road from the Project Area to the Log Transfer Facility (LTF) in Portage Bay. Portage Bay was included in the analysis area because of the high recreation use there and because it is the access point for roaded recreation in the Project Area. Recreation in the bay would also be affected to some degree by timber harvest activities at the LTF site.

3-205 Under “Cumulative Effects”, replace the first paragraph in that section with the following:

The cumulative effects analysis area includes the Scott Peak Project Area (VCU 444) and VCU 442 to the north and west. VCU 442 is included because Portage Bay LTF is the access point for roaded recreation in the Project Area and Portage Bay road system.

The proposed activities, when combined with the current roaded condition and the reasonably foreseeable future activities, will not significantly change the existing recreation opportunities because the proposed activity does not construct any new forest system roads. Forest system roads for reasonably foreseeable future projects have already been constructed under the decision documents for those sales. In addition, the recreation experience is not expected to change following the planned logging because the acreage affected is relatively small and the area is located in the Roaded Modified setting.

3-205 Under “Cumulative Effects”, replace the first sentence of the second paragraph with the following:

The reasonably foreseeable future effects can be estimated by looking at the harvest of the Bohemia Mountain and Todahl Backline timber units.

3-210 Add the subheading “Area of Analysis” following the “Forest Plan SEIS” subsection and include the following:

Two Roadless Areas overlap the Scott Peak Project Area. Since all proposed activities for all alternatives do not contribute to the reduction of roadless areas and there are no reasonably foreseeable future activities planned within the Scott Peak Project Area, the area of analysis is limited to the Project Area. Activities outside the Scott Peak Project Area will have a Roadless Area Analysis completed in the decision documents for those activities.

3-217 Under “Cumulative Effects”, add the following statement at the beginning of section:

All proposed activities would be within the existing roaded portions of the Project Area. The proposed activities do not contribute to the reduction of Roadless Areas and there are no reasonably foreseeable future activities planned within the Scott Peak Project Area. There will be no cumulative effect to Roadless Areas from this project.

3-217 Under “Cumulative Effects”, change the first sentence to read:

“At a larger scale....”

Appendix A

A-7 In paragraph four, change sentence four to read:

“The annual demand for FY 06 is projected to be 143 mmbf.”

A-17 In paragraph three, change the last sentence to read:

“The Scott Peak project is currently proposed for harvest in Fiscal year FY 07.”

A- 19 In paragraph one, change the last sentence to read:

“...with harvest potentially beginning in 2007.”



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**USDA Forest Service
Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest
PO Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300**

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



1022485431